INTRODUCTION

TO THE

STUDY of PATHOLOGY

ON A

NATURAL PLAN:

CONTAINING AN

ESSAY ON FEVERS, &c.

By JAMES RYMER.

HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR; AND SOLD BY J. DONALDSON, BOOKSELLER, CORNER OF ARUNDEL STREET, IN THE STRAND.

MDCCLXXV.

1. Mk. 299.

BOSTON ... MEDICAL
AUG 15 1927
LIBRARY

DEDICATION.

TO PHYSICIANS, and SURGEONS, *&c.* who act in that Branch of Medicine called the *Practice of Phyſic*; as conjecturing *them* ready to embrace, and patronize any reaſonable Attempt to Improvement in their Profeſſion:—And, to my WORTHY FRIEND

MR. NICHOLAS DAVIDSON,

the Contents of this ESSAY are humbly dedicated; by

THEIR HUMBLE SERVANT,

JAMES RYMER.

AN ESSAY ON FEVERS,

BY

JAMES RYMER.

ORDER FEBRES.

GENUS I. Intermittent Fevers.

Species.

1. Quotidian.
2. Tertian.
3. Quartan.

GENUS II. Continual Fevers,

Species.

1. Inflammatory Fever.
2. Nervous Fever.

ORDER FEBRES.

GENUS I. Intermittent Fevers.

Species.

1. Quotidian.
2. Tertian.
3. Quartan.

GENUS II. Continual Fevers.

Species.

1. Inflammatory Fever.
2. Nervous Fever.

A TABLE OF THE CHAPTERS.

CHAP. I. Of Health and Diſeaſe.
CHAP. II. Of Fever in general.
CHAP. III. Of intermittent Fever.
CHAP. IV. Of the proximate Cauſe of intermittent Fever.
CHAP. V. Of the remote Cauſes of intermittent Fever.
CHAP. VI. Of the Method of Cure of intermittent Fevers.
CHAP. VII. Of continued Fevers.
CHAP. VIII. Of the remote Cauſes of inflammatory Fever.
CHAP. IX. Of the Method of Cure of inflammatory Fever.
CHAP. X. Of the nervous, or putrid Fever.
CHAP. XI. Of the remote Cauſes of the nervous, or putrid Fever.
CHAP. XII. Of the proximate Cauſe of the nervous, or putrid Fever.
CHAP. XIII. Of the Method of Cure of the nervous, or putrid Fever.

PREFACE.

THIS Work being an attempt to improve the now prevalent methods, at UNIVERSITIES, of lecturing on Diſeaſes, with regard to their arrangment into CLASSES, ORDERS, &c. and alſo, with reſpect to the Proximate, and Remote CAUSES of Diſeaſes, the Author flatters himſelf, it may meet with Protection.

It hath long been the obſervation of learned men, that no branch of ſcience is in more want of cultivation than the Practice of Phyſic. We have many ſyſtems on this ſubject, wrote by eminent and learned authors; but they all ſeem to have par-

particular foibles: for ſome have been too prolix, while others, on the contrary, have wrote with too much brevity: and they all have aimed at, a *Je ne ſais quoi,* they could never attain.

Some authors have thought, that ſcholaſtic method alone was ſufficient; and, that if the different diſeaſes could be properly arranged, according to their analogy with one another, into orders, genera, and ſpecies, we ſhould have need of nothing elſe to guide us in practice. But this, certainly in ſome meaſure, is a miſtake: for noſological ſyſtems in general, according as they are now wrote, embarras the memory, and puzzle the underſtanding.

The learned Dr. SAUVAGES, has been of ſingular advantage to the phyſical tribe, and has done great honour to the ſcience of medicine. His book on methodical noſology is judiciouſly, and logically wrote; and

and I think is one of the beſt ſyſtems, on the ſubject, that has ever appeared.

The ſcientific Dr. CULLEN has made many juſt improvements on it: and here, I muſt add, that every one who wiſhes to ſtudy the practice of phyſic in a methodical manner, ſhould follow his plan.

I am very ſenſible of the many advantages which reſult from the ſtudy of methodical noſology: and muſt confeſs, that it has been the alone means of firſt bringing the practice of phyſic, and the proper knowledge of Diſeaſes, into a ſort of perfection; altho' the firſt attempts towards it were very inconcluſive; and, at the ſame time, I poſitively declare, that all the ſyſtems hitherto wrote on the ſubject, are vague and unſatisfactory.

In the courſe of the following ſhort work I do not mean to inculcate tediouſly, or to dwell long on any particular ſubject: I only

I only intend to give Hints: and thoſe Hints are particularly directed to all ingenious, and unprejudiced minds, engaged in the medical ſcience.

In the following pages, I ſhall diſcourſe on fevers only: and as I have diminiſhed their number conſiderably, and, intend to treat them in a particular manner, I doubt not of drawing upon myſelf the malicious cenſure, and pedantic criticiſm, of all thoſe whoſe minds are obſcured, and rendered opaque, bythe effects of prejudice, and prepoſſeſſion.

My method, whether conſidered as natural, or arbitrary, ſhall be unconfuſed, as far as the nature of the ſubject will allow.

I ſhall *firſt* conſider fevers in general.

2*dly*, I ſhall divide them into two general kinds, viz.

1. Into

1. Into Intermittents.

2. Into continued Fevers; and,

3. I ſhall go on to conſider the ſpecies of each genus as they occur in the order of my methodical Noſology of Fevers.

1. Into Intermittents.

2. Into continued Fevers; and,

3. I shall go on to consider the species of each genus as they occur in the order of my methodical Nosology of Fevers.

BOSTON MEDICAL
AUG 15 1927
LIBRARY

AN ESSAY ON FEVERS.

CHAP. I

Of Health and Diſeaſe.

AS, in definition, the nature of a thing, or quality, is to be acquired by a knowledge of its oppoſite: ſo the nature of Diſeaſe, as being the oppoſite of Health, is to be known by the pefect knowledge of the true definition of Health.

Health then is that ſtate of a living and perfect animal, wherein all the functions, vital as well as animal, perform their offices in an uninterrupted manner, and according to the natural laws of animated things.

Now Diſeaſe, on the contrary, is that ſtate of a living animal wherein one, or more, of the functions, whether animal or vital, is ſo diſturbed, from whatſoever cauſe, that it no longer acts agreeably to the laws of nature, but produces ſuch effects within the ſyſtem of the particular animal body, as require the aid of medicinal knowledge to annihilate.

CHAP. II.

Of Fever in general.

THE definitions of Fever are various; and, generally unſatisfactory. Almoſt every phyſician who has adopted a new theory, has for the moſt part given us a different definition of Fever: and, if they did not entirely reject old ones, they generally made conſiderable alterations in them. Some have defined Fever, an act of nature to throw out of the body ſomething foreign and offenſive to the well-being of the animal economy—while others have denominated it, a burning heat, with thirſt. The former has been the more generally received opinion of it. But

to avoid argument and controverſy on this head, I ſhall proceed to my own definition of Fever.

A Fever is that ſtate of a living animal wherein the action of the powers of the circulation of the blood is increaſed to that degree which is inconſiſtent with the well-being of animal life. Or, in other words, It is an encreaſed action of the heart and arteries.--This is applicable to every Fever, ſeeing it is the chief characteriſtic of the preſence of this diſeaſe;—the particular effects of which have nothing at all to do with the definition of Fever; as quick, and full, pulſe; heat, &c.

CHAP. III.

Of Intermittent Fever.

AS a continual Fever is that diſeaſe or Fever, which from its firſt exiſtence in the human body continues in an almoſt uniform manner, till its total exit, or, diſappearance; ſo an intermittent Fever, on the contrary, is that diſeaſe, which throughout its courſe appears, and diſ-

appears, at certain periods. Or, an intermittent may be defined, or conſidered, as the repeated attacks of a continual Fever.

Having thus defined Intermittent Fever, I ſhall now go on to enumerate its particular ſymptoms: or thoſe phenomena which are the conſequences of its proximate cauſe.

An intermittent gives us information of its firſt coming into being by,

1. A ſenſe of wearineſs, or general laſſitude, with yawning, ſtretching, and extenſion of the extremities

2. Univerſal debility of the whole ſyſtem.

3. The patient performs his actions in an unconſcious manner, and without reaſonable attention.

4. A paleneſs takes place over the whole ſurface of the body, and it firſt appears in the extreme parts, as the hands, feet, viſage, &c.

5. The

5. The whole body ſhrinks to ſuch a degree, that cloaths, which, before that change, juſt fitted, now ſeem too wide.

6. The extreme veſſels of the ſurface are no more to be obſerved, and this firſt occurs in the extremities, or in thoſe parts moſt diſtant from the heart. The nails alſo loſe their natural colour, and ſeem to the eye as if tinged with a bluiſh hue. The ſkin alſo acquires a new mode, and puts on the appearance of that of a fowl when newly pluckt, or deplumated.

7. A ſenſation of general cold takes place: and by ſome late experiments, the Mercury in the Thermometer has really ſunk below the degree of natural animal heat: however, the heat has often increaſed above the natural ſtandard while the patient has complained of intenſe coldneſs.

8. A ſhivering, or tremor, ſeizes the whole frame: and it is more evident in thoſe members whoſe ſupports are the weakeſt; ſuch as the lower jaw, &c.

9. After each of theſe modes has acted its part, the patient becomes ſenſible of heat, and after a ſmall

a ſmall ſpace of time, it ſpreads itſelf throughout the whole body, and becomes general, baniſhing tremor with all its frightful phenomena.

10. Spaſm being no more, a general ſweat prevails, which continues for a greater or leſs ſpace of time, according to the circumſtances of conſtitution, age, &c. of the patient.

11. The patient having ſuffered and ſurvived theſe different ſymptoms, general debility oppreſſes and unbends the ſprings of life, and the unhappy ſufferer remains for a while as if ſtruck with melancholy deſpondence, and afflictive diſtreſs.

That I might not be too tedious, I have omitted to mention ſome very eſſential ſymptoms, well known to every learned practitioner: ſuch as the affections of reſpiration, of the ſecretions, ſtomach, &c. But at the ſame time, that my meaning may be freed from ambiguity and confuſion, let me juſt add,

1. That the reſpiration in the cold ſtate, is laborious, and oppreſſed, with conſiderable anxiety.

In

In the hot ſtate, it is leſs ſo: and in the ſweating ſtate, it becomes again quite free and natural.

2. In the cold ſtate, the ſecretions are, as it were, totally dried up, and continue ſo, but with leſs degree, till the ſweating ſtate takes place; at which time, they all acquire their natural operations.

3. In the cold ſtate, nauſea occurs, and there is an inclination to vomit, with thirſt, &c. Theſe ſymptoms alſo vaniſh, in proportion as the ſweating ſtate encreaſes.

Now, the paroxyſm, or fit, of an intermitent Fever, may be divided into three different ſtates, viz.

1. The cold ſtate.

2. The hot ſtate.

3. The ſweating ſtate.

In each of theſe, the Pulſe is different. In the firſt, it is ſmall, depreſſed, and ſomewhat frequent.

In

In the ſecond, it is full, ſtrong, hard, and quick.

In the third, it becomes leſs full, leſs ſtrong, leſs hard, and leſs quick: and, at the termination of this laſt ſtate of the paroxyſm, it becomes again quite natural.

In the cold ſtate, ſome authors have obſerved the patient to become comatoſe, with a diminution of the powers of the different ſenſes.

In the hot ſtate, ſome patients become quite delirious, and furiouſly mad: and theſe phenomena generally vaniſh with all the above recited ſymptoms at the termination of the ſweating ſtate.

Having thus conciſely enumerated the chief of thoſe ſymptoms which attend intermittent Fevers, I think it proper to add, that as they occur nearly in the ſame manner in all the ſpecies of this genus, as in the Quotidian, Quartan, and Tertian, it will be unneceſſary to ſay any thing particularly concerning any of them: and

all

all that can be ſaid of them with propriety is, that in the Quotidian, its paroxyſm returns every day; that of the Tertian, every third day incluſive: and, that of the Quartan, returns every fourth day incluſive: ſo that, in this laſt, the patient enjoys two days free from Fever, and is apparently in good health, only a ſort of languor and debility prevail.

CHAP. IV.

Of the Proximate Cauſe of Intermittent Fever.

HERE, an ample field for hypothetical reaſoning preſents itſelf. Various and abſurd have been the hypotheſes of the ancients concerning the proximate cauſe of this diſeaſe; ſome have conjectured one thing: and others, another; and have often extended their reſearches to ſuch a degree, beyond reaſon and probability, that they generally loſt themſelves in the wild mazes of obſcure labyrinths. But, of later times, ſome phyſicians have contented themſelves in accounting for the proximate cauſe of this Fever, whether

whether Tertian or Quartan, by ſuppoſing it to be owing to morbid matter, introduced into the body, and obſtructing the capillary veſſels, and perſpiratory pores, to ſuch a degree, that nature, no longer able to bear the oppreſſion, &c. of her new gueſt, exerts what phyſical men call the *vis vitæ*, whereby the momentum of the blood is ſo encreaſed, that the new ſtranger being overpowered, is compelled to lay dormant for a greater or leſs ſpace of time, according to the denomination of the Fever. Others have talked of acrimony; but have been unable to advance ſatisfactory concluſions.

The learned Dr. HUXHAM alſo has miſlead himſelf in the inveſtigation of the proximate cauſe of Fever: he talks of lentor, &c. and enumerates ſeveral remote cauſes, without endeavouring, philoſophically, to find out the real, or moſt probable proximate cauſe of intermittents. He was an ingenious and judicious man; and an excellent practical phyſician; but, with regard to the inveſtigation of the proximate cauſes of diſeaſes, he certainly was faulty, and

to no ſmall degree erroneous: and this, probably, might be owing to his great attachment to the old theories of BOERHAAVE, &c.

Every man of good genius, whoſe underſtanding has been properly cultivated, by reaſonable education, and judiciouſly trained up, according to the now prevailing principles of the ſcience of medicine, ſhould endeavour to exert his faculties to the laſt degree of mental energy, in finding out the truth, or the real proximate cauſes of diſeaſes: and he ought, by all means, to avoid harbouring the baneful effects of prejudice and prepoſſeſſion. For, the man, whom infatuation forces to do ſo, will never be of any real uſe, neither to ſcience, nor to mankind in general.

Having now finiſhed a ſort of modeſt criticiſm on authors in general, I will proceed to advance my own theory of the proximate cauſe of intermittent Fever: and here, I ſuppoſe, many phyſicians, and many other men in the phyſical way, will altogether reject, and totally diſapprove of, what I am about to aver. But, on the other hand, I alſo conjecture, that all thoſe men, whom

whom philoſophy hath poliſhed, and whom Heaven hath bleſſed with pure and untainted minds, will embrace my doctrine, and accept of my theory, with ſcientifical gladneſs, as the means of enlightening and elucidating ſome obſcure particulars in that noble, and divine, ſcience, Medicine!

The proximate cauſe then of intermittent Fever is, an enervation of the nervous ſyſtem. Or, in other words, it is a diminution of thoſe powers which are the cauſes of the animal functions. Or, further, it may be defined, a debility of the powers of the circulation of the blood, with a diminiſhed energy alſo of ſome of the powers of the mind.

Hence the reaſons, firſt, in the cold ſtate of the Paroxyſm. Of

1. Laſſitude, with yawning, extention, &c. of the extremities.

2. Of the patient's performing his actions unconſciouſly, and apparently without attention.

3. Of

3. Of paleneſs of the extremities, &c.

4. Of apparent diminution of the ſize of the body.

5. Of the diſappearance of the extreme veſſels; of the bluiſh hue of the nails; and of the conſtriction of the ſkin.

6. Of the ſenſation of general coldneſs.

7. Of the tremor or ſhivering of the whole body.

8. Of the laborious and oppreſſed reſpiration, with anxiety, &c. and theſe all take place from the heart being unable to propel the blood in natural quantity to the ſurface, extreme parts, of the body, &c. whereby the blood is accumulated in the large veſſels about the heart, &c.

Having thus far accounted for the phenomenon which occur in the cold ſtate of the paroxyſm, I will juſt intimate, before I commence to ſpeak of thoſe which happen in the other two ſtates, that, at the termination of the cold ſtate, the

the proximate cauſe ceaſes to act: or, is apparently no more in being; in conſequence whereof, the energy of the powers of the circulation gradually increaſes; hence the heart having acquired new vigour, as alſo the whole arterial ſyſtem, the blood is violently propelled to all parts of the animal body. Hence the Reaſons,

1. Of the ſenſation of heat and its increaſe, and of quick, and full, pulſe, &c.

2. Of the returns, and increaſe of the different ſecretions; as of urine, ſweat, ſaliva, &c.

3. And laſt, of the profuſe ſweating, which terminates the paroxyſm.

From what I have ſaid, he who acquires a juſt knowledge of what I have advanced, will eaſily be able to account for all thoſe phenomena I have purpoſely paſſed over, which occur in either of the three ſtates of the paroxyſm of an intermittent Fever.

I have ſaid nothing concerning thoſe hypotheſes phyſicians have invented to account for the

the hot fit, as they call it, of the paroxyſm; ſuch as the actions of certain innate powers of the animal body conſtantly endeavouring to remove obſtructions, to throw out of the ſyſtem, noxious particles, acrimony, &c. and ſuch like unintelligible jargon, the reſult of confuſed ideas.

CHAP. V.

Of the Remote Cauſes of Intermittent Fever.

IN the enumeration of the remote cauſes I ſhall be leſs tedious than moſt of the authors who have preceded me. I ſhall conſider,

1. The nature and effects of Miaſmata.

2. I ſhall diſcourſe a little on the nature and effects of cold.

3. And laſtly, I ſhall ſpeak conciſely of the effects of Fear.

Miaſmata is a general term for particles ariſing from moiſt bodies, or matter in ſtates of pu-

putrifaction and fermentation. I conſider them in their natures as two different kinds of effluvia; conſequently, may juſtly divide them into,

1. Thoſe exhaled from inanimate matter: and,

2. Into thoſe ariſing from animals while in ſtates of diſeaſe.

In the firſt kind I include all thoſe which ariſe from moiſt maſſes of matter in general, while in the circumſtances of putridity and fermentation: ſuch as

1. Stagnated water in marſhy and low places, expoſed to the heat of the ſun.

2. Dunghills, and other maſſes of congregated filth.

3. Dead bodies in ſtates of putrifaction, unburied, and expoſed to the heat or direct rays of the ſun.

In the ſecond kind I include thoſe particles exhaled from the bodies of diſeaſed animals: or

or rather, thoſe effluviæ ariſing from the living bodies of rational beings while afflicted with epidemical diſtempers.

Now general experience will confirm what I am about to ſay, of

1. The ſpecies of the firſt kind of effluviæ; viz. That when introduced into the body, in ſufficient quantity, by the air in reſpiration, they always affect the nervous ſyſtem, and induce debility.

2. With regard to the effluviæ of the ſecond kind; viz. That, when in like manner, they are received into the ſyſtem of a living and healthful animal body, in ſufficient quantity, they always produce debility, and all the ſymptoms of the diſeaſe of the particular patient whence they proceeded. Hence the origin of intermittent Fevers, &c.

I proceed now to the conſideration of cold. I define it an abſence of heat; for where heat is, there cold is not. Or, it has no being in the particular body poſſeſſing heat: And its logical de-

finition is, the negation of heat. But that I may be better underſtood, I ſhall conſider cold as a real quality of matter.

Cold when applied in a general manner to the body of a living perſon, in great degree, always acts as a powerful ſedative; cauſing debility of the vital powers, and, very frequently, all the phenomena of the paroxyſm of an intermittent Fever.

To prove and illuſtrate what I have ſaid, I need only to quote the familiar inſtances of the effects of bathing in extremely cold water. Take notice of a perſon juſt come out of the frigid bath, and you may obſerve he has a general tremor of of the whole body; with paleneſs of the ſuperficies; ſpaſm of the ſkin; diminution of the ſecretions; general weakneſs; ſmall and debilitated pulſe, &c. The cold having ceaſed to act, all the phenomena of the hot ſtate of the paroxyſm occur: with this difference, that they are leſs violent.

Thus much on the effects of cold; I now go on to conſider the effects of fear.

Fear

Fear may be looked upon as the negation of one of the paſſions of the mind; viz. courage. But I ſhall here conſider it as a poſſitive quality.

A perſon when affected with fear to a great degree, is generally ſeized with univerſal tremor; paleneſs of the countenance; weak pulſe; oppreſſed reſpiration, and great anxiety, with palpitations of the heart, and general weakneſs. X

Now, when ſome, or all, of theſe remote cauſes meet, and act together within the ſyſtem of a particular perſon, let me aſk the reaſonable and judicious reader, if they may not be capable of producing diſeaſe.

Unwilling to tire the patience of the readers, I have omitted to mention ſome other remote cauſes: ſuch as exceſſes in drinking, venery, &c. which all induce debility, together with affections of the ſtomach ariſing from indigeſtive contents.

X Other paſſions beſides that of fear are obſerved to produce the ſame effects, as exceſſive joy, ſurprise, love &c

CHAP. VI.

Of the Method of Cure of Intermittents.

I am now come to a moſt ſerious ſubject—a ſubject in its nature really ſacred and divine; ſeeing it implies the holy knowledge of deſtroying or removing the bodily afflictions of human life. Even our bleſſed Saviour, during his abode upon earth, took upon himſelf the office of the phyſician, and by the holy influence and power of his moſt divine word, cured the corporeal infirmities of mankind.

Every phyſician, and every medical man, who may be ſo conſcious of the perfection of his own judgment, as to authorize himſelf to undertake, juſtly, the curing of diſeaſes, ſhould ſummon all the powers of underſtanding to aid him in the nice buſineſs of preſcription; for he who preſcribes at random, and gives medicines whoſe natures and effects he knows nothing of, ſhould be exiled from the ſociety of men, and all the pleaſing haunts of reaſonable life; and his preſence

ſence ſhould be ſhuned as is that of the baneful ſnake, and he ought to be looked upon as being only fit for the rude embraces of fell monſters.

As the paroxyſm, or fit of an intermittent fever conſiſts of three different ſtates, ſo I am naturally led to divide the method of cure into three diſtinct indications.

1. To prevent, or remove, the effects of the debility of the nervous ſyſtem: or, in other words, to remove the ſymptoms which occur in the cold ſtate of the fit.

2. To prevent, or moderate, or remove, thoſe ſymptoms which are the conſequences of the encreaſed energy of the powers of the circulation of the blood. Or, in other words, to diminiſh the increaſed momentum of the blood.

3. To ſtrenghthen the tone of the relaxed ſolids; and, to prevent all tendencies to putrifaction.

Now, in diſcourſing on this ſubject, it is not my deſign to enter into prolix details of critical

diſ-

diſcuſſion; I will only ſay, that all the ancients, and many of the moderns, in conſequence of their having formed wrong notions of the nature and cauſe of intermittents, have been generally miſlead in their methods of cure. I will alſo add, that in this chapter, I do not mean to enumerate the particular doſes of particular medicines; neither is it my intention to point out the time when, or the manner how, any particular medicine is to be adminiſtered: for this eſſay is particularly directed to all thoſe who have already ſtudied phyſic in a methodical manner; and hence I ſuppoſe them all ſufficiently inſtructed in the particulars of the *materia medica*, pharmacy, &c. therefore, the enumeration of the doſes, &c. of medicines, becomes unneceſſary.

Of the firſt Intention of Cure.

Here all theſe medicines, which greatly ſtimulate and rouſe the faculties, both animal and vital, are neceſſary; ſuch as,

1. Emetics.

In

In the action of vomiting, all the muſcles of the whole body are in action: hence the ſenſorium is excited in conſequence of the increaſed circulation of the blood, and its determination to the brain; and hence alſo, in conſequence of the particular ſympathy between the internal organs and the ſkin, a gentle ſweat enſues, and the ſpaſm on the ſurface, as alſo the conſtriction of the perſpiratory pores, are entirely deſtroyed.

2. Sternutatories.

Sneezing rouſes in a particular manner the energy of the nervous ſyſtem; hence the cauſe of the phenomena of ſternutation: ſuch as the agreeably gentle, and general convulſive contractions of the muſcles.

3. And laſt, Stimulants, ſuch as the volatile alkaline ſalts, &c.

When theſe ſubſtances are taken internally, they generaly irritate, and excite, the energy of the powers of the circulation, and increaſe the irritability of the heart and arteries: hence the blood

blood is propelled to the ſurface, &c. cauſing ſweat and an increaſe of the ſecretions.

Of the ſecond Intention of Cure.

If the medicines of the firſt indication have failed, theſe belonging to this head come next in courſe: and here I include all thoſe ſubſtances called antiphlogiſtics, together with the means of diminiſhing the increaſed energy of the heart and arteries; ſuch as, 1. diaphoretics and ſudorifics, with all cooling medicines, which increaſe the ſecretions, as alſo proper diluents.

All theſe medicines tend to diminiſh or deſtroy the inflammatory diatheſis of the blood, which often occurs in the beginning of this fever: they alſo prevent every tendency to general inflammation, firſt, by diminiſhing the quantity of the contents of the ſanguiferous ſyſtem: and ſecondly by leſſening the tone or contractile power of the heart and arteries.

Theſe

Theſe medicines ſhould be of the ſaline and neutral kind; nitre in particular ſhould be uſed in the drink of the ſick, as being a powerful antiphlogiſtic; and perhaps camphor might be of ſervice.

In the beginning of this diſeaſe, provided the patient be of a robuſt and athletic conſtitution, with ſymptoms of plethora, I adviſe the prudent, the cautious, and the judicious phyſician, to order him to loſe a proper quantity of blood. But here great judgment is neceſſary: and let the practitioner, whoever he may be, proceed in it with the greateſt caution.

Of the third Intention of Cure.

The medicines of the firſt and ſecond intentions having been properly uſed, thoſe of the third come next into conſideration; and are,

1. Aſtringents; ſuch as the Peruvian bark, oak bark, gentian root, the rind of bitter oranges, and almoſt all bitters; together with chalybeates,

beates, and the elixir of vitriol; and the cold bath, at the end of the diſeaſe, to invigorate the ſyſtem, may be had recourſe to.

2. Antiſeptics: ſuch as the greater number of acids and aſtringents.

All the above medicines corroborate and brace up the relaxed ſolids, and deſtroy all tendencies in the animal body to putrifaction: hence the functions and nervous ſyſtem are invigorated, ſtrengthened, and totaly deprived of debility.

On this ſubject I have now only two more articles to add. The

1. Is the uſe of the hot bath in the cold ſtate of the paroxyſm. The 2d is the use of the cold bath in the hot state

2. Is the uſe of electricity in the ſame ſtate of the paroxyſm. i.e. both states conjoined.

Now, what I am about to advance with regard to the advantages which might be derived from the proper application of theſe two remedies to the human body, during the exiſtence of the

cold

cold ſtate of an intermittent paroxyſm, is purely theoretical, having never had an opportunity of experiencing their effects in ſuch circumſtances.

If a hot fluid, ſuch as water, heated to a proper degree, is applied to the body of a living and hale animal, in a general manner, the phenomena reſulting from its action, are

1. An increaſe of the blood's motion, in conſequence of the heart and arteries having been ſtimulated by the power of heat.

2. A removal of ſpaſm and conſtriction from the ſurface of the body, capillary veſſels, &c.

3. An increaſe of the ſecretions, with profuſe ſweating.

4. A quick, and full pulſe. All theſe are only the conſequence of the firſt effect of heat, viz. of the increaſed action of the heart and arteries.

I now proceed to the conſideration of electricity: and here, I ſuppoſe, that every one who has

has ſtudied natural philoſophy, is acquainted with its nature and properties.

However, it may not be amiſs juſt to hint here, that the matter of it is endued with the moſt ſubtile and active principles.

In different ſtates of modification, it is imagined to be the cauſe of attraction, vegetation, and animation; but with regard to the laſt, it ſhould only be conſidered as the ſupport, and not as the cauſe of animal life; ſeeing the human body is endued with a rational ſoul.

Some have ſuppoſed alſo that the matter of electricity, in a particular ſtate of modification, is the cauſe of ſenſation; and that its reſidence and abode are the nerves, &c. And I think this hypotheſis might be ſupported and corroborated by ſeveral concluſive reaſons; ſuch as its ſenſible effects on the nervous ſyſtem in the caſes of palſy, &c,

Now, ſeeing as a ſtimulus, it affects the nervous ſyſtem only, Why ſhould it not be of ſingular efficacy in the cure of an intermittent paroxyſm?

roxyſm? But here, let me only juſt hint, that, if it is applied in the hot ſtate, it will do more harm than good. For when applied to the human body in a proper manner it cauſes,

1. An increaſe of the motion and contractile force of the heart and arteries.

2. It removes ſpaſm, and increaſes the ſecretions in general: therefore from what I have ſaid, it appears, that its application to the human body, ſhould only be made, in the beginning of the cold ſtate of the paroxyſym of an intermittent fever.

The uſe of the fetid gums might alſo contribute to the removal of the cold ſtate.

The ſame method of cure is to be had recourſe to, in all the ſpecies of intermittent Fever; as the Quotidian, Tertian, and Quartan.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

Of continued Fevers.

I Am now come to the ſecond genus of Fevers; and here I ſhall firſt conſider a ſimple inflammatory Fever.

I purpoſely paſs over the definition of continued Fever in this place, having already ſaid enough with regard to it in *Chap.* iii, to which I refer.

The ſymptoms of an inflammatory Fever are,

1. Laſſitude, with a ſenſation of cold, and ſometimes ſhivering.

2. Head-ach, with acute pains in the back, knees, and bones.

3. Quick, full, hard, and ſtrong, pulſe,

4. Exceſſive thirſt.

5. Nau-

5. Nauſea, with, ſometimes, real vomiting.

6. Delirium; and in ſome caſes, convulſions.

7. The heat of the body becomes general, and is ſeveral degrees above the natural ſtandard.

8. Difficult and oppreſſed reſpiration, with anxiety, &c.

9. Dryneſs of the tongue and fauces.

Theſe are the chief ſymptoms of an inflammatory Fever.

CHAP. VIII.

Of the Remote Cauſes of the Inflammatory Fever.

ALL the modern authors, in treating on this ſubject, generally enumerate, whatever thickens the blood and increaſes its motion, as remote cauſes of this Fever: and, by reaſon of their limited hypotheſis on the ſubject, and their unmethodical manner of proceeding, have generally

rally blended the remote cauſes with that of the proximate cauſe.

In this chapter I ſhall firſt conſider the remote cauſes, according to my own notions of the matter: and, ſecondly, ſhall go on to treat of the proximate cauſe.

The remote cauſes of an imflammatory Fever then are,

1. Cold.

2. High living.

3. Drunkenneſs: or, the immoderate uſe of ſtrong liquors.

Cold, in producing a ſimple inflammatory Fever, acts in three different manners.

1. As a ſedative.

2. As a ſtimulant: and

3. As an aſtringent.

It

It acts firſt as a ſedative, in inducing a debility of the energy of the nervous ſyſtem: hence the reaſons of laſſitude, ſenſe of cold, &c. in the beginning of this diſeaſe. Here, when the diſeaſe is endemical, cold is aſſiſted in its operation by miaſmata: for it cannot of itſelf produce an epidemical Fever.

Secondly, as a ſtimulant—Here the reader may object, and ſay, How can the ſame power produce two very different effects? Cold never acts as a ſtimulant but when applied in a moderate degree, endeavouring, as it were, to counteract the propulſive power of the heart and arteries, in propelling the blood to the ſurface: hence a ſort of reaction takes place, and the circulation in general is increaſed; whence reſult, head-ach, quick and full pulſe, &c. It muſt be obſerved, at the ſame time, that cold only produces theſe effects, when applied to the bodies of thoſe perſons whoſe ſanguiferous ſyſtems are diſtended with blood.

Thirdly, as an aſtringent.

Cold acts as an aſtringent in conſtringing the perſpiratory pores, and in cauſing ſpaſm of the

extreme veſſels, &c. hence the origin of the increaſed circulation, from obſtructed ſecretions, ſuch as ſweat, perſpiration, and the like.

High living. This alone in many caſes produces ſimple fever, by accumulating in the ſanguiferous ſyſtem an unneceſſary quantity of blood; hence the general phethora, and its ſymtoms in ſuch caſes.

The immoderate uſe of ſtrong liquors. Here the generality of my readers will excuſe brevity; for I ſuppoſe them all in a greater or leſs degree, experienced in the effects reſulting from the drinking of ſtrong liquors; as wine, brandy, rum, ſtrong beer, &c.

Bouſing is become general. Friends when they meet cannot enjoy themſelves without the bottle; and, now-a-days, is practiſed not only by the old, but alſo by the young. In old age, the enervated energies of the powers, vital as well as animal, require ſuch a ſtimulus: and the uſe of port wine is not only ſafe, in ſuch caſes, but is even very neceſſary. This is not the caſe in youth: for here, the worſt of conſequences attend

tend ſuch a practice. However, at a particular occaſion, and only then, let, with moderation, the generous glaſs go round: it enlivens ſociety, gives a ſcope to the reſerved mind, and acts as a mental purgative.

Strong liquors always affects the heart and arteries, and produce fever, hence quick, full, and ſtrong, pulſe, &c. and if, in this caſe, the perſon ſo affected, is expoſed to the effect of cold, the ſymptoms will be the more violent.

Proximate Cauſe.

I ſhall, on this ſubject, dwell but for a ſhort time.

An inflammatory fever may be conſidered as the hot ſtate of the paroxyſm of an intermittent fever, and therefore its proximate cauſe is an increaſed action of the heart and arteries, and this is the reſult of an increaſe of their power of motion.

Some authors, as the learned Dr. SHEBBEARB, imagine, and poſitively aſſert, that the proximate cauſe of an inflammatory fever is an in-

creaſe of the vital heat. Now, here, Dr. SHEBBEARE has led himſelf into an evident and palpable miſtake ×; for he conſiders the effect as the cauſe. Let me enter into a ſhort diſcuſſion of the matter, in order to demonſtrate the truth of my aſſertion.

Every one, acquainted with this particular object of natural philoſophy, knows, that the cauſe of heat is motion: and hence its origin in all theſe fluids and moiſt maſſes of matter in ſtates of fermentation and putrefaction. Heat is * alſo generated in ſolids by friction, and therefore its cauſe is motion. From what I have ſaid then, it appears, that Dr. SHEBBEARE's hypotheſis is erroneous: and that the exceſs of heat, which occurs in this fever, is not its cauſe, but merely the effect of the increaſed action of the heart and arteries, and of the unnaturally quick velocity of the blood.

If heat alone was the cauſe of this fever, we ſhould not be at all puzzled in the method of cure: for there would be but one indication neceſſary, viz. to reduce the increaſed heat, and bring it to the natural ſtandard.

CHAP

× Or as the Dutchman says has bit off his own nose.

* How is the action of the heart & arteries encreased by lying too warm in bed, without a change of posture? Our Author must admit that heat is a stimulus to

CHAP. IX.

Of the Method of Cure of the ſimple inflammatory Fever.

THE proximate cauſe being an increaſed action of the heart and arteries, in conſequence of general plethora, &c. I ſhall divide the method of cure into two indications.

1. To weaken the irritability of the ſanguiferous ſyſtem, as the heart, arteries, &c.

2. To diminiſh the quantity of blood.

Both theſe intentions of cure may be effected by the following medicines, and remedies.

1. By bleeding.

2. By emetics.

3. By dilution.

4. By

4. By ſudorifics, diaphoretics, diuretics, and purgatives.

With regard to the firſt, it is well known, that plentiful bleeding, or a proper loſs of blood in the beginning of this diſeaſe, is attended with infinite advantages. It induces debility, enervates the energy of the nervous ſyſtem, and weakens the tone and contractile power of the ſolids.

Secondly, Emetics, by irritating the ſtomach, cauſe it to reject its noxious contents; and at the ſame time they operate in producing ſweat: hence are ſerviceable.

Thirdly, Dilution. The blood having acquired a thicker conſiſtence than is natural, in conſequence of the increaſed animal heat, requires dilution: and here the fluids neceſſary ſhould be of the ſimple homogeneous kind; ſuch as pure water heated to a gentle degree, and made palatable by the addition of what the phyſician thinks beſt: but he ſhould not omit nitre, and lemon juice.

Secondly, Barley water, with a proper quantity of nitre diſſolved in it.

Fourthly,

Fourthly, Sudorifics, diaphoretics, diuretics, and purgatives. All the ſpecies of each of theſe kinds of medicines ſhould be of the cooling and antiphlogiſtic ſort; ſuch as,

1. Saline mixtures; and all the neutrals of the cooling kind.

2. *Sal. corn. cerv.* and Camphor. Both theſe are good medicines if properly adminiſtred.

The purgatives ſhould be of the neutral ſort: ſuch as the purging ſalts of glauber, &c.

All theſe medicines act in a ſpecific manner; and we do not know much of their methods of operating. Some ſtart one hypotheſis, and others another; and all that we certainly know is, that, for inſtance, thoſe medicines called diuretics affect the kidneys in a particular manner, and cauſe an increaſed ſecretion of urine; and whether this is effected by elective attraction is immaterial. The ſame may be ſaid of all the others.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

Of the Nervous or, Putrid Fever.

I Am now come to the ſecond and laſt ſpecies of continued fever, viz. the nervous, or putrid fever: and here I make no diſtinction; for I conſider theſe two names as ſynonymous, and when they differ, it is only with regard to the violence of their ſymptoms.

This fever is attended with the moſt horrid train of phenomena; is of great fatality to mankind; and when it rages, abridges much the number of the human race.

It rages with the greateſt violence in the decline of the year; and is then moſt dangerous. It occurs generally,

1. In all thoſe places where misfortunate individuals are confined in crouds, within the narrow and gloomy confines of jails, priſons, &c. where

where the ſtagnated air is loaded with the foul and direful vapour of diſeaſe.

2. In all low and marſhy countries, where miaſmata and putrid effluviæ prevail.

3. Altho' more rarely, in ſome ſhips, when a great number of men are, as it were, pent up, and in contact with one another, within the limited receptacles of thoſe wooden buildings, and breathing a contaminated air.

The ſymptoms are.

1. General debility, which increaſes by degrees, and often arrives, in the ſpace of a few hours, to ſuch a pitch, that the unhappy ſufferer, unable to ſupport the body in an erect poſture, lays proſtrate on the bed, like a lifeleſs maſs of inactive matter.

2. At the beginning there are ſhiverings, with ſenſations of cold, and theſe are ſucceeded by uncertain returns of heat.

3. Thirſt, with loſs of appetite, nauſea, and frequently vomiting.

4. Op-

4. Oppreſſed reſpiration, with ſighing, &c.

5. Pains in different parts of the body.

6. Weak, and debilitated, pulſe.

7. A diminution of the energies of all the powers of the mind, with melancholy, and ſad deſpair.

8. Fetid effluviæ exhale from the body; and the air which comes out of the lungs in expiration, is loaded with offenſive particles.

9. The urine is of a limpid and pale colour; but is different toward the termination of the diſeaſe.

10. The tongue is generally covered with a duſkiſh coloured cruſt, which is alſo ſometimes quite black, and ſurrounded with a yellowiſh border. It is alſo, when not ſupported, affected with tremor.

11. Toward the end of the diſeaſe, the whole muſcular ſyſtem is affected with convulſive contractions.

12. Pro-

12. Profuſe and fetid ſweats occurs. There are alſo bloody ſweats; and blood is often diſcharged from different parts of the body, as the lungs, gums, &c. and the body is often covered with petechial ſpots.

I have enumerated the principal ſymptoms which attend this fever. I ſhall next go on to conſider its remote cauſes.

CHAP. XI.

Of the remote Cauſes of the Nervous, or Putrid Fever.

HERE I refer the reader to ſome of the remote cauſes of the intermittent fever; and if he conſiders them philoſophically, he will find they have a tendency to produce, in the animal fluids, the principle of putrefaction.

For brevity's ſake, I ſhall juſt ſay, that all thoſe things, capable of producing a tendency to putridity in our fluids, may be looked upon as remote cauſes of this fever.

I now

I now proceed to conſider the nature of contagion, and its effects on the human body.

This baneful matter is of ſuch a deleterious nature, that when introduced into the animal body, is often attended with immediate deſtruction and fatality. It is produced in, and ariſes from, the animal ſyſtem while in a ſtate of diſeaſe: it exiſts particularly in jails, priſons, hoſpitals, and hoſpital ſhips: hence in all thoſe places we find that putrid diſeaſes generaly prevail.

If the matter of contagion is conſidered phyſically, we ſhall find that it is of a fixed nature, and not volatile, but in a degree of heat above the natural ſtandard. Its particles are heavier, or contain more matter in the ſame bulk, than thoſe of the air; hence, unleſs expanded and rarified by heat, cannot be ſupported in the atmoſphere: hence alſo the reaſon why the putrid diſeaſes of jails, &c. are ſo ſeldom ſpread abroad. And here, therefore, we may ſafely ſay, that putrid diſeaſes, are frequently communicated to others, by thoſe, perſons who have been in contact with the ſick, or their garments.

This

This particular contagion is, in its nature and properties, analogous to that of the ſmall pox, meaſles, &c. and perhaps the original and conſtituent particles of them are the ſame: but they produce different effects by being differently modified.

Dr. HUXHAM, in ſpeaking of the remote cauſes of this fever, talks of acrimony, and the particular craſis of the blood. If this learned phyſician, in his medical diſquiſitions, had reaſoned more philoſophically, in regard to the natures and effects of remote cauſes, the ſcience of medicine might have been enriched, with many moſt uſeful diſcoveries. But alas! he was too much captivated by the deluſions of old theories.

Dr. SHEBBEARE again, made too much uſe of philoſophy in accounting for the production of diſeaſes; for, according to him, the particular modifications of vital heat, are the cauſes of all diſtempers.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

Of the Proximate Cauſe of the Nervous or Putrid Fever.

IN the inveſtigation of the proximate cauſes of diſeaſes great judgment and accuracy are neceſſary: and every author, in writing on this ſubject, ſhould uſe the plaineſt and moſt ſimple words to expreſs his thoughts. An author ought particularly to guard againſt ambiguity and equivocation: and if he has ſtudied natural philoſophy, and has acquired a proper and juſt knowledge of the natures of cauſes and effects, he will be the better enabled to inveſtigate the real and true proximate cauſes of diſtempers.

In ſpeaking of proximate cauſes, we are very apt to be miſlead and deceived in our notions reſpecting them: for the ſubject is entirely ſpeculative and hypothetical, and conſequently we can-
never ~~not always~~ be certain of the truth. It is true, that in many diſeaſes we have gained a great deal of knowledge, from the diſſections of dead bodies:

but

but with regard to all thoſe diſeaſes reſulting from affections of the brain and nervous ſyſtem, we are ſtill in many caſes left in the dark, and embarraſſed with doubts. At the ſame time it muſt be ſaid, that our theories and hypotheſis, concerning the nervous ſyſtem, have now arrived to great degrees of perfection.

The theory of the learned Dr. CULLEN, profeſſor of the inſtitutions, &c. of medicine, at Edinburgh, concerning ſenſation, and the phenomena of the nervous ſyſtem, has thrown great light on may obſcure things in diſeaſes. It is certainly the beſt theory that as yet has been advanced; for it is natural: hence is attended with probability and truth; and may be corroborated by many ſatisfactory arguments. He is a man well verſed in general knowledge, and has acquired a thorough acquaintance with things; but in his enquires he ſtretches too far, and extends his ſcrutiny often beyond the limits of the powers of mortal underſtanding, endeavouring to find out things which the almighty Author of the univerſe has thought proper to conceal from the knowledge of man.

The

The proximate cauſe of the nervous or putrid fever then, is a debility, or a diminiſhed energy of the powers of the nervous ſyſtem, together with a genenral and powerful tendency in the fluids and ſolids to putrefaction. Hence the reaſons,

1. Of general debility and weakened energy of the powers of the mind, and the diminution of muſcular power,

2. Of chilline ſs, with ſenſation of cold.

3. Of weak and ſlow pulſe.

4. Of difficult and oppreſſed breathing, &c.

Thus, from what I have ſaid, the ingenious reader will be enabled to account for all thoſe ſymptoms which reſult from the debility of the powers of animal motion; and if he takes a philoſophical view of thoſe effects or ſymptoms, which are the conſequences of putrefaction, provided he is acquainted with the doctrines of evaporation, and putridity, he will eaſily ſee the reaſons,

1. Of

1. Of the offenſive breath.

2. Of the dry tongue, and of the black cruſt which covers it.

3. Of the bloody ſweats, and other diſcharges of this fluid, &c.

I have ſaid nothing concerning the cauſes of convulſions, ſubſultus tendinum, and delirium, which often occur both in the inflammatory and putrid fevers: becauſe this ſubject belongs more particularly to another branch of medicine; however, I ſhall juſt hint that they ariſe from affections of the cerebellum, &c. in conſequence of compreſſion from, or too great, or unnatural, determination of blood to the brain, &c.

CHAP. XIII.

Of the Method of Cure of the Nervous, or Putrid Fever.

AS the proximate cauſe of this diſeaſe is a weakened energy of the powers of animal motion, and a general tendency in the ſyſtem to

BOSTON MEDICAL LIBRARY AUG 15 1927

putridity; ſo I divide the method of cure into two diſtinct indications. The

1. Is to deſtroy dibility; and the

2. Is to deſtroy the tendency in the fluids and ſolids to putrefaction.

With reſpect to the firſt intention of cure, I refer the reader, to what I have ſaid concerning the firſt intention of cure of the intermittent fever: but here let him uſe bliſters.

Secondly, Reſpecting the ſecond intention of cure, all thoſe medicines called antiſeptics are neceſſary: ſuch as,

1. Almoſt all ſorts of acids: but here all thoſe endued with the principle of corroſion muſt be avoided: and I think thoſe of the vegetable kingdom are the beſt; as lemon juice, &c.

2. Aſtringents: the peruvian bark in particular I recommend; for it powerfully deſtroys the principle of putrefaction, and at the ſame time,

time, braces up the ſolids, and invigorates the whole enervated nervous ſyſtem. I include here alſo the proper uſe of good old port wine.

" Thou ſhalt not kill. "

Let the idea, or ideas, which thoſe words communicate to the conception, never be eraſed from the minds of all thoſe phyſicians, or ſurgeons, or medical men, who approve of bleeding in this diſeaſe.

The chambers of all thoſe afflicted with this terrible, and fell diſeaſe, ſhould be frequently fumigated with the ſmoke of tobacco: and every phyſician, or ſurgeon, who has occaſion to viſit patients in this fever, ſhould plug his noſtrils with tobacco; and on entering the room where the patient is, and while he remains in it, ſhould take ſnuff: for tobacco is an excellent ſecurity againſt the effects of the ſeeds of this fever: and whether this proceeds from the infection being changed, and its nature rendered harmleſs, by the combination of its particles with the effluviæ of the tobacco, is of little conſequence.

Every medicine, or ſubſtance, of a ſeptic quality, ſhould be avoided: as alſo, all thoſe things, which induce weakneſs of the nervous ſyſtem, and diminiſh the power of irritability; ſuch as opium, &c.

FINIS.

MEDICAL HINTS,

BY

JAMES RYMER.

È MEGLIO ANDAR SOLO CHE MAL ACCOMPAGNATO.

MEDICAL HINTS,

BY

JAMES RAYMER,

A MEDICO ANGLAR GOLD ONE MILE ACCOMPANATO.

DEDICATION.

TO all true Lovers of JUST, and REASONABLE, Knowledge; and to noble, and unprejudiced, Minds, engaged in the Medical Profeſſion; the Contents of this little Work are, with Reſpect, and Submiſſion, dedicated,

BY THEIR

WELL WISHING SERVANT,

JAMES RYMER.

PREFACE.

FOR empirics; for all thoſe, whoſe ſouls are unfitted for refinement by philoſophical aid; and, for thoſe who act by the raſh impulſes of wild fancy, whoſe actions, conſequently, are not conducted by the unerring *rules* of divine reaſon, and ſound judgment, this work is not intended.

Sacred tradition informs us, that man is the image of the Deity. His Creator has endowed him with a rational ſoul, to diſtinguiſh his ſuperiority over all the other works of creation. The powers of his mind, when properly uſed, can guide him, with propriety, in all the actions of human life. By the faculty of reaſon, with the aid of the other powers of the ſoul, he is enabled to judge of the natures of things.

Poſſeſſed of ſuch exalted, and divine, qualities, why was man called into being? and for

what

what deſtination, in the grand ſcene of the world, has the Deity ordained him? As my preſent intention of writing is not to diſcuſs moral points; and particularly, becauſe I am not a moraliſt, I ſhall dwell but a ſhort time upon the ſubject, and ſhall only ſpeak of man's duty, with reſpect to ſome particulars, in his preſent mode of being.

Man is endowed with the faculty of reaſon, in order to diſtinguiſh between truth and falſehood. Between theſe two qualities, it is abſolutely neceſſary to make a diſtinction; therefore man ought to exert the power of reaſoning, in order to deſcry truth from falſity.

In the ſciences, nature has preſented us with ample fields for ſpeculative diſcuſſions, and ſhe has enabled us to make diſtinctions between rectitude and abſurdity. As the ſubject is noble, ſo is the agent. I mean to infer, that ſpeculative matters deſerve the attention of the mind, that twig of divinity.

Every man, of whatever profeſſion he may be, ſhould ſtimulate his powers with ambitious

energy

energy to hunt for truth, and the true means of acquiring juſt knowledge.

To aid one another, is a moral duty. To this we are prompted by nature, from the quality of our being. There are alſo two other ſtimulants, viz. Ambition, and intereſt; but, theſe take place, more particularly, in matters of ſpeculation—eſpecially the firſt.

On any part of literature, if the writing of a man was the reſult of a laudable intention to improve, I ſay, not only the man, but his book, ought to be regarded; even if his work was not attended with the wiſhed for ſucceſs. Why ſhould a man be condemned for endeavouring to do good?

All men are endowed with rational ſouls. All ſouls have the ſame qualities. But, from the circumſtances of their combination with matter, when joined with animal bodies; from the circumſtances of culture; and, from the differences of ſtation in life, the powers of the ſoul, exert themſelves differently.

A ſim-

A ſimple thing can have but one ſimple quality; but, with regard to it, men form various opinions, and make different inferences. Among them all, there can be but one which is juſt, or approximates to the truth. And perhaps we may venture to ſay, they may be all erroneous. The reaſon of it is, that men, in their reaſonings upon particulars, follow plans which guide them to error and abſurdity.

The plans inſtituted in the ſcience of medicine, with views to guide us to the abode of truth, are, in general, faulty; and, like ſea-charts, wherein the places of danger are not juſtly pointed out, lead us to ſtumbling blocks, and embarraſſment. In ſhort, the preſent nature of the practice of phyſic, may be juſtly looked upon as bearing a true analogy to that mode of religion practiſed among certain nations; for, if poſſible, it is as much perplexed with ſuperſtition, that baneful obſtacle to progreſſion in knowledge.

The authors of the above plans I by no means condemn; for they were worthy men, and meant good to ſcience, whether their motives aroſe from private ambition, or their real affection to man-

mankind. I only mean to advance, that in order to direct the medical man, with ſome degree of propriety in his profeſſion, another inſtitution of medical ſtudy is abſolutely neceſſary.

I have given particular attention to the preſent ſtate of medical knowledge, and as I find it faulty, in many particulars, mean to make corrections. You may look upon me in the ſame light as you would upon VOLTAIRE'S American; my mind is not a labyrinth of prejudice, and the knowledge I have acquired of the medical ſcience, has taken place ſince the arrival of my mind at no contemptible degree of reaſonable maturity.

Long diſquiſition I ſhall purpoſely avoid. My ſentences ſhall be as ſhort as the nature of particulars will admit of; becauſe, like nature, I admire, and, take delight in, ſimplicity. Jargons, and long harangues, I leave to thoſe religioniſts who patronize the methodiſts. If any ancient minded medical gentleman ſhall peep into this my work, and find it diſcordant to his formality, let him conſult his own patrons, and their ſpeculative productions; for believe me,

nature

nature never fitted his *Napper-caſe* to gain fame by any attempts *he might make* to improve his profeſſion.)

Every man after his own mode of thought, and conſequently me, after mine. Sects there have always been in the world, and ſects there always will be, merely becauſe the thoughts of one man diſagree with thoſe of another, with regard to the ſame thing: and, as I have juſt hinted, this reſults from rectitude in the one, and abſurdity in the other: oftentimes they may be both in the wrong; but, in general, we find, that the one approaches nearer the truth than the other; becauſe, as they are in ſearch of the ſame object, and, as there is a difference, we find, by compariſon, that one is near, and the other diſtant.

But let that be as it may, my plan ſhall be of a particular, and hence, uncommon, kind.

All the ſyſtems on the ſubject are too elaborate; but mine ſhall be ſhort. Many of them alſo, are unintelligible, and, as a body might ſay, contain *Medical-bulls*. In this work, errors, unpercieved, may glide in; becauſe, by nature, we are liable to fallibility; however, the candid reader, may

may excuſe them;—or, as ſays a much lamented, late learned, and worthy friend, in the preface to his valuable, ſimply-elegant, and ingenuous, little work—" He has an undoubted right to cenſure " *them* with all the ſeverity which their faults deſerve."

In diſcourſing upon diſeaſes, I ſhall,

1. begin with the definition of each, that the knowledge of its nature, and general qualities, may be acquired.

2. I ſhall treat of the proximate cauſe of each diſorder, in order that the ſtudent may become acquainted with its remote cauſes.

3. And laſtly, I ſhall treat of the cure.

MEDICAL

TABLE

OF THE

CONTENTS.

CHAP. I. Of general Diſeaſes.
CHAP. II. Of inflammatory Fevers.
CHAP. III. Of nervous Fevers.
CHAP. IV. Of putrid Fevers.
CHAP. V. Of continual Fevers.
CHAP. VI. Of intermittent Fevers.
CHAP. VII. Of the ſimple inflammatory Fever.
CHAP. VIII. Of the nervous, or putrid Fever.
CHAP. IX. Of the ſpecies of the Intermittent.
CHAP. X. Of local Inflammation.
CHAP. XI. Of inflammatory Fevers, attended with internal Inflammations.
CHAP. XII. Of inflammatory Fevers, attended with external Eruptions.
CHAP. XIII. Of muſcular Motion, Convulſion, and Spaſm.
CHAP. XIV. Of Palſy.

CONTENTS

OF THE

TABLE

MEDICAL HINTS.

CHAP. I.

Of general Diſeaſes.

I Begin with general diſeaſes; becauſe, in ſome caſes, before we deſcend to particulars, general things ought to be known. For inſtance, I never ſhould become acquainted with the nature of an arm, as an extremity, unleſs I had, before hand, acquired an idea of the animal body. Or, I could not form a juſt notion of the nature of an alphabetical letter, without a previous knowledge of the alphabet it belonged to.

In the former part, I had occaſion to define the nature of the word, *Diſeaſe*. I am not fond of making uſe of repetitions: therefore, to that ſmall work I refer the reader. He will find it treated on in Chapter the firſt.

Definition of general Diſeaſe.

In order to give the reader a clearer idea of the ſubject, it will be neceſſary to hint, that the animal body, in order to its healthy ſubſiſtence, depends upon the proper and natural exertions of the functions of the animal organs, viz. 1. Upon the office of the ſtomach, and *thoſe* of the other abdominal viſcera concerned in aſſiſting to finiſh the operations of digeſtion and chylification.

2. Upon the office of the lacteal veſſels.

3. Upon the office of the lungs.

4. Upon the office of the ſanguiferous ſyſtem: and the ſtates of the exertions of the functions of

of all thoſe organs, depend upon the ſtate of the nervous power; hence, you may juſtly ſay, all diſeaſes proceed from affections of the nervous ſyſtem.

Now, if any one of the above mentioned animal organs ceaſes to perform its function, or office, or deviates in its action from the inſtitution of nature, diſeaſe takes place; becauſe diſeaſe means a negation to natural action in bodily organs.

As, among created things in the univerſe, order and harmony are kept up, and all the operations of nature conducted and carried on with invariable regularity, by powers implanted in them by the almighty Author of all things; or, by the immediate exertion of his own power; for infinity is every where: ſo, the operations of all the organs, and the actions of all the members of the animal body, are the effects of the exertions of the powers of the ſoul. But, when the wheel of a watch is broke, the motions of the machine ceaſe. In like manner, when any bodily organ ſuffers a particular change, its natural office terminates. When any machine is deſtroyed,

ſtroyed, the exertion of the power of its agent upon it, with views to cauſe it to perform its accuſtomed operations, will have no effect. So when the organs of the human body are ſo changed, by whatſoever cauſe, that the exertions of the energies of the powers of the ſoul cannot cauſe them to act, termination of mortal exiſtence enſues.

General diſeaſe then, is *that* wherein all the organs of the animal body are ſo affected that they do not perform their actions in a natural manner.

CHAP. II.

Of Inflammatory Fevers.

WHAT thing does an author mean, by the term Inflammatory Fever? According to the preſent mode of uttering thoughts by words, and from the ideas we thereby acquire, if I knew not what the word Fever meant, I ſhould conclude it to be an inflammable ſubſtance, analogous to ſulphur. This would be a natural thought.

thought. Natural thoughts are juſteſt; therefore the term Inflammatory Fever does not ſo well expreſs a diſeaſe as a ſubſtance. Let this ſerve as a hint to the ingenious.

In this Chapter, I only mean to treat of thoſe diſeaſes called Inflammatory Fevers in a general manner; becauſe, while upon a general ſubject, if I conſidered particulars, I ſhould deviate from my plan.

As inflammatory fevers mean qualities, or affections of the human body, of the ſame kind, I ſhall only fix my attention on one of them, when by method I am led to diſcourſe upon particulars.

General Definition of Inflammatory Fevers.

All thoſe diſeaſes, or affections of the human body, attended with all the ſymptoms of an inflammatory fever *only*, are called Inflammatory Fevers; and they only differ, among themſelves, according to the degrees of violence, and duration of ſymptoms.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

Of Nervous, Fevers.

THE Nerves are the inſtruments of the ſenſes, &c. All motion and action in the corporeal ſyſtem, depend upon the exertion of their energy. This is no miſtake; for I do not mean to expatiate upon the nature of irritability.

The differences of the degrees of action of the heart and arteries, are the conſequences of the different degrees of the exertion of the nervous power by means of the nerves leading to thoſe organs.

General Definition of Nervous Fevers.

Nervous Fevers are thoſe diſeaſes wherein patients have the ſame, and no other ſymptoms than thoſe attending a perſon who, by a proper medical judge, is ſaid to be affected with no other phenomena than thoſe which characterize a proper nervous fever only.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

Of Putrid Fevers.

SOME able phyſicians tell us, that, with regard to the human ſpecies, bodies which are ſaid to be dead, ought not to be buried until ſigns of putrefaction take place: becauſe, ſay they, that quality called putrefaction is inconſiſtent with animal life. I therefore infer, that putrefaction, as a real quality in nature, never occurs but after death, and is the means nature puts in execution to deſtroy the form of her animal work.

As putrefaction then is inconſiſtent with animal life, ſo no living animal can have a general putrid quality; therefore, there can be no ſuch thing in nature as a putrid fever; becauſe, putrid fever means a general putrid diſeaſe.

Gene-

General Definition of Putrid Fevers.

Putrid Fevers are thoſe diſeaſes wherein patients have the real ſymptoms of a putrid fever only.

CHAP. V.

Of Continual Fevers.

I will ſay I am now come to the firſt genus of general diſeaſes, which takes in all thoſe called Continual Fevers.

A continual fever is an affection of a finite being: a continual fever muſt mean an eternal diſeaſe: but a finite being cannot have an eternal quality; hence, there can be no ſuch *thing* as a continual fever. However, not to be too ſevere upon the doctrine of thoſe ſuppoſed to be learned and acute, I ſhall proceed to the general definition.

Gene-

General Definition of Continual Fevers.

Upon this ſubject it becomes neceſſary to deviate a little from the general doctrine, by advancing ſome alterations. I know it is looked upon as a hard taſk to attack, and criticiſe upon ſubjects of this nature; notwithſtanding, I attempt it. I cannot ſay what may be the attendant ſucceſs; but, as my intention is laudable, I proceed.

With regard to the general name given to thoſe diſeaſes, the Hint I have advanced, may convince the medical-men of genius, and all thoſe of the profeſſion, whoſe moderate talents have been amended by the means of ſcientific cultivation, that the general name may not be proper.

Again, as diſeaſe is an affection morbid of a finite being, it conſequently muſt have a finite period: and, as all diſeaſes continue for differently certain times; ſo, I define continual fevers

to

to be thoſe, which, from their firſt appearance continue without total intermiſſion till they entirely diſappear.

CHAP. VI.

Of Intermittent Fevers.

THIS Chapter ſhall alſo be laconic; becauſe, as I am treating upon one ſubject only, I ſhall not enter upon others. By this means I ſhall avoid confuſion, and my readers will not be embarraſſed.

If, like moſt authors, it was my deſign, to give my book the qualities of *bulk* and extenſion, or, rather the ſole quality of prolixity, I could eaſily find the means; but, as this little work is not intended to paſs for a Medical Novel, I purpoſely avoid it.

Here, I cannot help quoting a paſſage from the work of a truly learned author, in treating of the abuſe of genius and its exuberance in literary compoſition.

"This

" This waſte of genius," ſays he, " exhibits " a moſt aſtoniſhing and melancholy proſpect. " A large library gives a full view of it. A- " mong the multitude of books, of which it is " compoſed, how few engage any one's atten- " tion? Such as are addreſſed to the heart and " imagination, ſuch as paint life, and manners, " in juſt colours, and intereſting ſituations, and " the very few that give genuine deſcriptions of " nature in any of her forms, or of the uſeful and " elegant arts, are read and admired. But the " far more numerous volumes, productions of " the intellectual powers, profound ſyſtems and " diſquiſitions of philoſophy and theology, are " neglected and deſpiſed, and remain only as " monuments of the pride and impotency of hu- " man underſtanding." &c. And with regard to medicine, he ſays—" Any man of ſenſe and " candor, who has been regularly bred to it, will " own, that his time has been moſtly taken up " with enquiries into branches of learning, " which upon trial he finds utterly unprofitable " to the main ends of his profeſſion, or waſted in " reading uſeleſs theories, and voluminous ex- " planations and commentaries on thoſe theories; " and will ingeniouſly acknowledge, that every

thing

" thing uſeful, which he ever learned from " books in the courſe of many years ſtudy, " might be taught to any *man* of common ſenſe " and attention in almoſt as many months, and " that a few years experience is worth all his " library;"—provided he is conducted by a juſt method, and true theories of cauſes and effects.

General Definition of Intermittent Fevers.

The knowledge of the natures of moſt diſeaſes is eaſily acquired; becauſe, as here, for example, a perſon who rightly underſtands the nature of continual, or rather, uninterrupted fevers, can readily acquire the knowledge of the nature of intermittent fevers, they being of a quite contrary quality, with reſpect to duration: So, by a right knowledge of the real nature, of any other diſtemper, a perſon may eaſily initiate himſelf in the knowledge of its oppoſite.

I can with ſudden facility, form an idea of darkneſs, from the notion I have gained of light. Inter-

Intermittent fevers then, are all thoſe, which, from their firſt appearance, till their total diſappearance and ceſſation, are attended with intermiſſions.

CHAP. VII.

Of the Inflammatory Fever.

IN this work, I will not alter the names of diſeaſes, I will leave it to the deciſion of proper judges.

Definition.

An inflammatory fever is an encreaſed action of the heart and arteries.

Proximate Cauſe.

The Proximate cauſe of this fever, is an encreaſed exertion, of the energy of the nervous power in thoſe nerves, upon which the action of the heart and arteries depends.

The

The action of a muſcular organ is always encreaſed by an encreaſed exertion of the energy of the nervous power in the nerve of that organ. All ſtimulating qualities encreaſe the exertion of the energy of the nervous power; therefore the cauſes of an encreaſed exertion of the energies of the nervous power, are ſtimulating qualities: hence ſtimulating qualities, or things, or bodies, which ſtimulate, are the remote cauſes of inflammatory fever.

The remote cauſes of this fever may be conſidered as acting upon two different objects in producing their effect.

1. Upon the nervous ſyſtem; and,

2. Upon the blood with regard to quantity; for the quality of the blood is changed in conſequence of the effect of the proximate cauſe.

Here, I ſhall add no more. I refer the reader to a former work on the ſubject.

CURE

CURE.

As the proximate cauſe of this fever is an increaſed exertion of the energy of the nervous power, there can be but one indication of cure, viz.

To diminiſh the increaſed action of the nervous energy.

This is effected by evacuations.

1. From the ſanguiferous ſyſtem.

2. From the ſtomach and inteſtines; as alſo, from the kidneys, &c.

The contents of the ſanguiferous ſyſtem are diminiſhed particularly by the two following means.

1. Bleeding.

2. Sweating. We may alſo take in diſcharges from the kidneys, ſalivary glands, &c.

The firſt is effected by the ſimple operation of phlebotomy: and, the ſecond, by thoſe medicines which cauſe an increaſed diſcharge of fluids, by ſweating, piſſing, &c.

The ſecond ſort of evacuations muſt be from the ſtomach and inteſtines.

1. From the ſtomach, by emetics.

2. From the inteſtines, and kidneys, &c. by purgatives, diuretics, &c.

All the ſtimulating medicines uſed in the cure of this diſeaſe, muſt be of the cooling and antephlogiſtic nature. They muſt alſo have a tendency to conquer all putreſcent qualities.

All ſubſtances, whether fluid, or ſolid, of a hot nature, which only ſtimulate, without cauſing evacuations, are hurtful: hence, muſt be laid aſide; becauſe, they only increaſe the violence of the proximate cauſe: in conſequence of which all the ſymptoms will be aggravated.

Dr. Whytt, in his remarks on the cure of nervous, and hypochondriac diſeaſes, mentions

ſeveral

ſeveral caſes of continued inflammatory fevers, wherein ſeveral ſymptoms of general inflammation took place, ſuch as inflammed eyes, violent delirium, &c. He mentions the good effects of fomentations, and warm pediluvium, and ſays, that he has ſaved more patients by theſe means than by any other remedy. Theſe applications were only of uſe by decreaſing the determination of blood to the veſſels of the brain, by means of reſolution, &c. But, I am apt to think he might have ſucceeded better, if he had introduced debility into the ſyſtem, by diminiſhing the quantity of blood.

CHAP. VIII.

Of the Nervous, or Putrid Fever.

IN this chapter, I treat upon the nervous Fever, and by the way ſhall give ſome hints in regard to the putrid Fever.

Deſinition.

That affection of the human body called Nervous Fever, is a diminiſhed action of the heart and arteries.

The proximate cauſe of this fever is a diminiſhed action of the energy of the nervous power throughout the ſyſtem: hence all the actions of the muſcular organs are debilitated.

When the nervous power is properly exerted in thoſe nerves leading to the heart, and the other organs of the circulation, the blood will have no putrid quality: becauſe, in this caſe, the heart and arteries act agreeably to the natural laws of the animal economy. If the nervous power is not properly exerted in thoſe nerves, the action of the heart and arteries will be diminiſhed; hence the blood, in conſequence of a want of proper velocity may acquire a putrid quality. Quer. Can it be ſo?

In this fever, in conſequence of the proximate cauſe, the action of the heart and arteries is diminiſhed; therefore, the blood may acquire a putrid quality: But this putrid quality of the blood is the effect of a cauſe. The cauſe is *that* of the nervous fever: hence the putrid quality of the blood is a ſymptom of this diſeaſe: but a ſymptom can never be called a diſtinct diſeaſe: therefore, there can be no ſuch diſeaſe as a putrid fever.

It

It means a putrid quality of the blood; and, this putrid quality of the blood is a ſymptom of the nervous fever, &c.

All bodies ſolid and fluid, endowed with qualities capable of diminiſhing the action of the power of the nervous ſyſtem, when ſo applied to the human body as that they may properly exert themſelves, whether externally, or internally, will, in general, produce this diſeaſe; hence, all thoſe qualities may be conſidered as being the remote cauſes of nervous fever.

CURE.

The proximate cauſe, I have advanced, is a diminution of the power of motion, &c. in the animal ſyſtem; but, in order to conceive a knowledge of the proper method of cure, it may be neceſſary to pay ſome attention to the two following chief ſymptoms:

1. The general debility.

2. The putrid quality of the blood.

Firſt, To deſtroy the debility; or, to increaſe the action of the nervous power, means the ſame thing; becauſe, unleſs I increaſe the action of the nervous power, I cannot deſtroy the general debility; therefore the firſt indication of cure is,

To encreaſe the action of the power of the nervous ſyſtem: and, the ſecond is,

To change the putrid quality of the blood, and to cauſe it to acquire its natural and healthy ſtate.

The reader will find what is here wanting by applying himſelf to my former ſmall work on this ſubject, in which I have treated upon particulars.

CHAP. IX.

Of the Species of Intermittent Fever.

I Am now come, by method, to treat upon the ſpecies of intermittent fever, viz. the Quotidian, Tertian, and Quartan.

If

If one and the ſame cauſe produces effects whoſe natures only differ in regard to the frequency of appearance, I ſay, the ſame means which deſtroy one effect, will, in like manner, deſtroy the others. For inſtance, the cauſe of a Quotidian, is the cauſe of a Tertian; and, the cauſe of a Tertian, is the cauſe of a Quartan. The medicines uſed in the cure of a Quotidian, are alſo uſed in the cure of the Tertian and Quartan; but, if the cauſe of the Quotidian was different from that of the Tertian, &c. the medicines uſed in the cure of the one would alſo be different from thoſe uſed in the cure of the other. This is not the caſe. The cauſe of all the ſpecies of intermittent Fever is the ſame; conſequently what cures one, will alſo cure the others.

As then the Quotidian, Tertian, and Quartan, as ſpecies of the intermittent fever, take their riſe from the ſame origin, I proceed to conſider the proximate cauſe.

Of

Of the Proximate Cauſe of Intermittent Fever.

Here, if a perſon underſtands the theory, or philoſophy of the animal body, and, if he conſiders the nature of the circumſtances of the cold ſtate of an intermittent paroxyſm, he will be led naturally to conclude, that the ſymptoms of the cold ſtate of the paroxyſm reſult from a weakened circulation. But the degrees of the exertion of the heart and arteries, depend upon the degrees of the exertion of the energy of the nervous power. In the cold ſtate, the action of the heart and arteries is diminiſhed: therefore, the proximate cauſe muſt be a diminution of the exertion of the energy of the nervous power, not only in thoſe nerves leading to the organs of the circulation of the blood; but, in general, throughout the ſyſtem.

In the animal body there is a power whoſe quality it is to overcome, and deſtroy, the cauſes of diſeaſes. This power may have had different names, well known, I ſuppoſe, to all thoſe engaged

engaged in this kind of ſtudy; but, I believe, the word *nature* generally expreſſes it, as for inſtance; when a phyſician is called to a patient labouring under an affection whoſe nature ſurpaſſes his knowledge, and hence whoſe cure he is totally ignorant of, he will ſay, "It muſt be left to nature."

When the cauſe of a diſeaſe takes place in the human body, this power is always in action till either its own efforts, or thoſe of medicine, conquer the afflictive intruder.

As ſoon as the ſymptoms of the cold ſtate, of the intermittent paroxyſm, diſappear, a new ſet of actors come upon the ſtage *, and are the conſequences of an increaſed action of the heart and arteries, reſulting from the re-action and increaſed vigour of the nervous power; and this is called the hot ſtate of the paroxyſm. This is

* To digreſs—In allegorizing, I will not affect the abſurd politeneſs of having recourſe to that hacknied phraſe, "If I may be allowed the expreſſion," with views that the criticiſing world might paſs over any uncommon vehicle of thought I may advance.

is removed by the intrufion of the ſweating ſtate, which like Generoſity, relieving the diſtreſſed, carries off all the ſymptoms; and, the patient is left tolerably eaſy.

Some powers, by laying dormant, acquire ſtrength and activity. This is the caſe with the proximate cauſe of this fever, and will always take place till nature or medicine, has rendered it inactive, or drove it out of being.

With regard to the remote cauſes, I refer the reader to what I have advanced when treating upon the nervous fever.

CURE.

In the preſent work, it is not my deſign to make unneceſſary repetitions; neither do I mean to increaſe unneceſſarily the ſize of the book. I might fix upon many medicines uſed in the cure; enumerate the doſes of each; tell when they ought to be properly adminiſtered; and laſtly, might theorize on the nature of their operations; I might even go ſo far as to criticiſe

on

on the proceedings of different authors, and private phyſicians engaged in the curing of intermittent fevers; but as I have already publiſhed my ſentiments upon the ſubject, I adviſe the reader to conſult the little work.

CHAP. X.

Of Local Inflammation.

Definition.

SIMPLE local, or topical inflammation, is an increaſed action of thoſe blood veſſels, whoſe coats are poſſeſſed of the power of motion, belonging to any particular part of the animal body.

Mr. QUESNAY, a phyſician in France, in his treatiſe on Suppuration, gives us the following definition of inflammation.

" L' inflammation eſt un excès de chaleur " excitée dans les humeurs par l'action trop vio-
" lente

" lente des arteres qui agiſſent ſur ces humeurs, " ſoit que ces mêmes humeurs ſoient arrêtées dans " une partie, comme dans le phlegmon ſoit " qu'elles circulent librement comme dans la " fievre." But here he has miſlead himſelf; for, the exceſs of heat excited in the humors, in conſequence of the too violent action of the arteries, is not the definition, it is only a ſymptom.

With regard to the proximate cauſe, he rather gives us the proper definition of inflammation.

He ſays, " La cauſe immédiate de l'inflam- " mation conſiſte dans l'action des arteres."

Proximate Cauſe.

The proximate cauſe of this affection is an increaſed action of the power of motion, or of the moving cauſe, of thoſe veſſels belonging to the part affected.

If ſtimulating, or irritating, qualities are applied to any particular part of the human body

ſo

ſo as that they may act upon the moving cauſe of the veſſels belonging to the ſaid part, I ſay their actions well be increaſed. When the action of the blood-veſſels of any part of a living animal is increaſed, a greater quantity of the circulating fluids will be brought to that part, in a given time, than to any other part, which may only receive the ſame number of blood-veſſels, as to ſize, quantity, and quality. If any part of a living animal body receives more blood by the arteries, than can be carried away by the veins, ſwelling, redneſs, ſenſe of heat and pain, will take place.

The ſymptoms of a local external inflammation, I divide into external and internal.

1. External ſymptoms. Theſe are,

1. Swelling.

2. Redneſs of the part affected.

Swelling. This ariſes from the diſtention of the blood veſſels of the affected part, and this diſtention of the blood veſſels, is the conſequence of

of an accumulation of the blood in the diſeaſed part.

Redneſs. Thoſe who may have acquired a general and particular knowledge in natural philoſophy, and who, conſequently, muſt have inſtructed themſelves in the alteration which the rays of light undergo in being reflected from ſurfaces of different ſtructures, may eaſily become acquainted with the cauſe of that redneſs which takes place in an inflammation of any external part of the human body accompanied with this ſymptom. But thoſe, whoſe deſtiny it has not been to initiate themſelves in the nature and properties of particulars in that branch of natural philoſophy called Optics, may be at a loſs. On the occaſion, it is not my buſineſs to enter into any particular digreſſion upon this ſubject. I am treating upon particulars in the ſcience of medicine, and not, by any means, upon particulars in branches of natural philoſophy. However, that thoſe my readers, (perhaps, worthy men,) may not remain entirely ignorant upon the ſubject, I will juſt hint, that the ſtructure of the ſurface of the inflammed part is ſo changed by the accumulation of blood underneath it, that

thoſe

thoſe rays of light proceeding from a luminous body, ſuch as a candle when burning, &c. are ſo reflected from the ſurface of the inflammed part to the eye or eyes, that in conſequence of the impulſe cauſed by the rays of light upon the ſentient part of the organ of ſight, and thence communicated to the common ſeat of the ſenſes, &c. of the ſoul in the brain, the mind, with regard to the colour of the inflammed part, forms the idea of redneſs.

2. Internal ſymptoms.

1. Pain. When the nerves of any part of a living animal are ſtretched beyond a certain degree, by whatſoever cauſe, a ſenſe of pain takes place. In local inflammation, on account of the ſwelling and diſtention of the veſſels in conſequence of accumulated blood, the nerves of the affected part are ſtretched beyond their natural degree of tenſion; hence a ſenſe of pain occurs; and this may be ſometimes owing to an inflammation of the tunics of theſe portions of the nerves ſituated in the affected part.

2. Senſe of heat. Heat is generated by motion, in the animal machine as well as in all the other

other ſubſtantial objects of nature. In the animal body it reſults from the impulſes of the heart and arteries upon the circulating fluids. If the action of the arteries of a particular part is increaſed, a ſenſe of heat above the natural ſtandard, or degree, will be perceived. In local inflammation, the action of the arteries of the affected part is increaſed above that of *thoſe* of all the other parts which remain in a natural ſtate; hence a ſenſe of heat takes place.

CURE.

The cure of this morbid affection is to be attempted in two different manners.

1. By diſperſion.

2. By bringing the inflammation to ſuppuration; hence, there are two *medical* intentions, or indications, of cure.

The proximate cauſe I have ſaid is an increaſed action of the energy of the moving power of thoſe veſſels belonging to the affected part, &c.

1. In-

1. Intention of cure is diſperſion.

This is to be attempted by having recourſe to all thoſe means which tend to diſperſe, or deſtroy the progreſs of the inflammation.

Unleſs the cauſe of any phenomena be deſtroyed, the effect produced by it will ſtill exiſt. When the nature of the cauſe of a diſeaſe is properly underſtood, in general, it will be no hard taſk to remove its effects, from its deſtruction, or abolition, by the uſe or application of ſubſtances, whoſe qualities produce the deſired effect.

To diſperſe and ſtop the progreſs of a beginning inflammation, from the knowledge I have of the nature of the proximate cauſe, I will have recourſe to thoſe remedies, which, by their action will diminiſh the increaſed motion of the arteries, &c. in the affected part.

The cure of many diſeaſes is to be attempted by,

1. An internal: and,

2. An external method.

1. Internal. I will firſt conſider the patient's age, and the nature of his conſtitution. If I find that among the remote cauſes, there is plethora, and that the patient, from the nature of conſtitution is more diſpoſed to be affected with diſeaſes of the inflammatory kind than with any others, I will order the contents of the ſanguiferous ſyſtem to be reaſonably diminiſhed by the means of,

1. Phlebotomy.

2. Purging.

3. Antiphlogiſtics.

1. Phlebotomy. This is effected by opening a vein, or artery, with a lancet, &c.

2. Purging. All thoſe medicines of a cooling quality, which when taken internally, increaſe the periſtaltic motion, ſecretions, and diſcharge of excrements, by ſtimulating the ſenſible parts of the inteſtines, are to be uſed; ſuch as the purging ſalts of Glauber, &c. &c.

3. Anti-

3. Antiphlogiſtics. They are all thoſe medicines, which when taken internally, diminiſh the degree of increaſed animal heat, and are void of all ſuch ſtimuli as increaſe the action of the arterial ſyſtem, ſuch as ſal nitre, and many other ſubſtances well known to chemiſts, and all thoſe who have, by ſtudy, acquired a proper knowledge of *uſeful particulars* in the materia medica. I ſay uſeful particulars; for the materia medica ſtands in as much need of abridgement, as does Dr. SAUVAGES's ſyſtem of methodical noſology.

2. External method of cure.

I am now come to treat of the external method of curing a local inflammation by means of diſperſion: and here again, we muſt reflect upon the nature of the proximate cauſe, to which I refer the reader.

On this particular, I have occaſion to mention but little. In order to remove all the ſymptoms which attend topical inflammation, we muſt have recourſe to the application of ſuch ſubſtances as weaken and tend to deſtroy the action

tion of the moving power of the affected veſſels; or in other words, to debilitate the cauſe of the increaſed motion of the veſſels, &c. of the inflammed part. This is to be affected by *exhibitions* of opium, camphor, &c. &c.

Emollient cataplaſms, and the application of warm fomentations, are alſo ſometimes uſed to diſperſe an inflammation; and are ſometimes ſucceſsful. The good effects attending them are owing to relaxation and an increaſe of the diameters of the veſſels of the part affected.

Having now advanced as much as my preſent intention of writing requires upon the firſt intention of cure by diſperſion, I now go on to conſider the ſecond.

2. Intention of cure, viz. To bring the inflammation to ſuppuration.

On this ſubject, I will not at preſent theorize; neither will I criticiſe upon the abſurdities attending the ſuperſtitious doctrine of coction, &c.

Here, all thoſe medicines and ſedative applications employed in the firſt indication of cure, muſt

muſt be totally laid aſide, and in lieu of them, we muſt make uſe of ſuch outward applications as will forward the progreſs of the inflammation; ſuch as ſubſtances endowed with emollient, and conſequently relaxing qualities, applied in the form of cataplaſms, or pultices—fomentations may alſo be uſed; but, inſtead of the many elaborate, and complex compoſitions uſed for the purpoſe, warm water, or the topical application of its ſteam, will anſwer the end.

Fomentations are applied to inflammed parts with views to produce ſuppuration. Fomentations, in producing ſuppuration act by relaxing, dilating, or expanding qualities. The application of warm water, or of its ſteam, produces theſe effects; hence, warm water, or its ſteam, may with equal propriety be put in practice inſtead of *galenical* fomentations.

By the continued application of ſubſtances endowed with the above qualities, for a certain ſpace of time, matter or pus will be formed in the part. If left to itſelf, by means of corroſion, a hole will be made in the external parts for its exit, or diſcharge. But here, the ſurgeon's aſ-

ſiſtance

ſiſtance becomes neceſſary; hence, in this place, and on this occaſion, I forbear to mention the particulars of his duty, being a ſubject foreign to my preſent deſign of compoſition.

If this matter, when left to itſelf, does not produce a hole for its diſcharge, by means of abſorption, it will be carried into the maſs of blood, and there, if allowed to remain, may become productive of bad, or dangerous effects. In this caſe the phyſician's buſineſs is to uſe the neceſſary means for its diſcharge; and with this view, he may have recourſe to evacuations.

Query. How is pus, or matter, the conſequence of an inflammation, formed? Is it the reſult of extravaſated blood acquiring by ſtagnation that quality? Is it the conſequence of a chemical ſolution of the components of the diſeaſed part?

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

Of Inflammatory Fevers, attended with internal local Inflammations.

Definition.

AN Inflammatory Fever, attended with an inflammation of an internal part, or organ, is a ſimple inflammatory fever, accompanied with an inflammation of an internal part, ſuch as, that diſeaſe known by the name of peripneumony, or, an inflammation of the Lungs; the pleuriſy, or an inflammation of that membrane which lines the cavity of the thorax, &c.

Proximate Cauſe.

The proximate cauſe of all theſe diſeaſes is the ſame as that of the ſimple inflammatory fever. But this may be objected to. I will therefore take

take one of them in particular, with views to make ſome variations in the methods now uſed at ſchools and univerſities, by profeſſors who lecture on that branch of medicine called the "Practice of Phyſic." For example:

An Inflammation of the Brain.

Here, we have an inflammatory fever, (whoſe proximate cauſe is the ſame which produces the ſimple inflammatory fever,) with local inflammation. The inflammation of the brain is the reſult of an increaſed action of its arteries, and is to be explained upon the principles I have advanced, reſpecting local inflammation.

Symptoms.

In this diſeaſe we have,

1. The ſymptoms of an inflammatory Fever.

2. Thoſe

2. Thoſe peculiar to the inflammation of the brain.

With regard to the firſt ſet of ſymptoms I purpoſely paſs them over, and will refer the reader to what I have advanced on the ſubject in my former work; but here, let him not be confined; for he may find a more ſatisfactory enumeration of the ſymptoms of the inflammatory fever in many good Authors, whoſe experience on this ſubject is, or has been, greater than mine; hence, perhaps, more worthy of attention. In the publication of that ſmall work, (as well as in this) it was not my deſign to communicate knowledge to the world by the enumeration of the ſymptoms of fevers.

2. Some ſymptoms peculiar to the inflammation of the brain are,

1. Violent, and continued head-ach.

2. Senſe of pulſation in the brain.

3. Delirium.

4. Con-

4. Convulſions, &c.

Theſe ſymptoms never fail to attend this diſorder, when it properly deſerves the name; and when they occur in the inflammatory fever, they may be looked upon as proceeding from the ſame cauſe: But here, when the brain is particularly affected, the above ſymptoms are always more violent.

The other ſymptoms, thought peculiar to this affection of the brain, alſo take place in the ſimple inflammatory fever; ſuch as, redneſs of the eyes, face, &c. and are merely the conſequences of the general, as well as perhaps, local inflammation.

To acquire a proper knowledge of the nature of the ſymptoms eſſential to this diſeaſe, and to enable the reader to diſcourſe with facility on the ſubject, let him conſult the nature of the proximate cauſe, the philoſophy of the brain, &c. and he will then clearly ſee into the reaſon of the violent head-ach; the pulſation of the brain; the delirium; and diſordered faculties of the mind, convulſions, &c.

CURE.

This is chiefly effected by diminiſhing the quantity of blood.

2. By Antiphlogiſtics, and the other remedies uſed in the cure of the ſimple inflammatory fever.

All violent ſtimuli muſt be carefully avoided; as alſo all ſuch medicines whoſe qualities are characterized by the term, "*Hot.*"

CHAP. XII.

Of Inflammatory Fevers, attended with external Eruptions.

Definition.

AN Inflammatory fever attended with an eruption on the ſurface of the body, is,

1. An

1. An increaſed action of the heart and arteries in general throughout the ſyſtem: and,

2. An increaſed action of the ſmall veſſels of parts belonging to the ſurface of the body.

To become particular, I fix upon that diſeaſe called the ſmall pox, in order to illuſtrate more clearly the doctrine I am about to advance, concerning thoſe inflammatory fevers attended with eruptions.

With regard to the definiton of this diſtemper, what I have ſaid above renders it unneceſſary to advance any thing more.

Proximate Cauſe.

The proximate cauſe of the ſmall pox, in reſpect to its nature, is analogous to *that* of all other inflammatory fevers; with this difference, that in the ſmall pox, with an increaſe of that power which is the cauſe of the motion of the arterial ſyſtem, there is alſo an increaſed action of

of the power of the motion of thoſe ſmall, or capillary veſſels, endowed with motion, whoſe motions are increaſed in the different affected ſmall parts belonging to the external ſurface of the body.

To familiarize this, let me advance ſome facts, ſuppoſitions, and remarks.

A finite thing can have no infinite quality. The human body is a finite thing hence no natural cauſe of any affection of the human body can give it the quality of infinity.

On the general ſurface of the body of a patient afflicted with the ſmall pox, there is a number of puſtules; but this number cannot be infinite; for if it was, a finite thing would then poſſeſs an infinite quality, which is impoſſible; hence, the greateſt number of puſtules attending the ſmall pox, upon the ſurface of the body is finite. But theſe puſtules are all the effect of the ſame cauſe, and, in their general properties, do not differ from one another; hence, if the nature, and properties of one puſtule be underſtood, we, at the ſame time, acquire a knowledge of the nature and properties of them all.

Let

Let me ſuppoſe myſelf called to give aſſiſtance to a patient infected with the ſmall pox. I find ſymptoms characterizing the preſence of an inflammatory Fever. In the courſe of a few days, a ſpot of a reddiſh colour appears on the ſurface of the body: or, for ſhortneſs ſake, upon the ſkin.

By attention and examination, I find this ſpot to be of an inflammatory nature, and to be explained nearly upon the very ſame principles I have advanced concerning local inflammation.

In diſeaſes of this kind, the occaſional cauſes are different from thoſe of the ſimple inflammatory fever. From the knowledge we have acquired by obſervation and experience of the nature of this diſeaſe, we are well convinced that its occaſional cauſe proceeds from morbid matter introduced into the ſanguiferous ſyſtem by the means of abſorption. It acts upon the nervous ſyſtem in nearly the ſame manner as do the occaſional cauſes of all inflammatory fevers, viz. by irritating, and ſtimulating qualities; hence the origin of the proximate cauſe.

CURE

CURE.

Here, as well as in all other diſeaſes, attention muſt be given to age, nature of conſtitution, quantity, as well as quality of blood, violence of ſymptoms, &c. However, in this diſeaſe particular regard muſt be paid to the eruption: great care muſt be taken to prevent its being either checked, or too copiouſly encouraged. After the ſtate of ſuppuration has taken place, none of the morbid matter muſt be allowed to remain in the ſyſtem, proper evacuations muſt be had recourſe to.

In this diſeaſe the antiphlogiſtic method is in general found to be the beſt, as well as in all other inflammatory diſtempers.

If there are ſymptoms indicating any tendency in the ſyſtem to putridity, immediate recourſe muſt be had to antiſeptics, ſuch as the Peruvian bark, and all thoſe medicines endowed with qualities which tend to deſtroy putrefaction.

On

On this head, I have no room to add more; becauſe, the knowledge of the cure of the ſmall pox, has arrived to a ſort of perfection. Many learned men have publiſhed treatiſes on the ſubject, and the moſt of them are uſeful; being the reſults of experience, and judicious obſervations.

CHAP. XIII.

Of Muſcular Motion, Convulſion and Spaſm.

INACTIVE matter will not act of itſelf. Action in inactive matter is the effect of a cauſe; or of the impulſe of ſome power; hence, if inactive matter is not acted upon by the impulſe of ſome power, it will not, of itſelf, act.

An aſſemblage of fleſhy fibres is a maſs of inactive matter. That thing in the animal body called a muſcle, is an aſſemblage of fleſhy fibres; hence, a muſcle will not act of itſelf unleſs it receives the impulſe of ſome power.

Muſcular motion is the effect of the impulſe, or action of the nervous power. When the impulſe

pulſe or action of the nervous power from the brain, to the muſcles in general, by means of the nerves, is propagated, in the ſame inſtant of time, in an equable, and uniform manner, in proportion to the differences of their ſize, quantity of matter, &c. they will all contract: and I ſay, the degrees of their contraction will be equable, and uniform, and in reſpect to one another, their quantities of motion, will be in proportion to their quantities of matter, &c.

If the impulſe of the nervous power upon a muſcle, already in action, be continued, that muſcle, if its fibres are in a fit ſtate for contraction, will remain contracted as long as its parts are acted upon by the action of the nervous power; and this will take place, whether the impulſe of the nervous power to the muſcle be propagated, in a voluntary or an involuntary, manner.

For inſtance, I will to bend my fore arm; inſtantaneouſly the flexor muſcles are contracted. The arm remains in this ſituation as long as the flexor muſcles remain contracted: and, the flexors remain contracted as long as their fibres are acted upon by the impulſe of the nervous power.

If I can bend and extend, my fore arm at pleaſure, the muſcles, which perform theſe motions, are under the power of my will, with regard to their contractions; conſequently, are acted upon agreeably to the laws of the animal inſtitution, &c. But if the ſame fore arm is bent, and extended alternately, the contractions of theſe muſcles are no longer under the influence of the power of my will; hence, they act in an involuntary, and unnatural, manner.

In the body of a living animal, all unnatural, and involuntary, motions, or contractions, of muſcles, muſt be looked upon as a diſeaſe; and are the reſults of the action of ſome power, or cauſe, which attempts the abridgment of the duration of human life.

The removal of the cauſe of every diſeaſe muſt be attempted: hence, as all unnatural and involuntary contractions of muſcles, are a diſeaſe, the deſtruction of their cauſe muſt be endeavoured at.

Of

Of Spaſm and Convulſion.

On this ſubject, many authors have wrote; and, with regard to it, doctrines of various kinds have been advanced. Some authors have ſupported, while others have endeavoured, by the force of argument, and hard words, to overthrow them.

A nervous diſeaſe, conſidered as the ſubject of a diſcourſe, will admit of very extenſive ſpeculation; becauſe, the nature and properties of the nervous ſyſtem are ſuch, that theory reſpecting it may be ſpun out to an almoſt endleſs limitation.

For my part, I will not enter into long details, or tedious digreſſions upon the matter. I will deliver my own ſentiments upon the occaſion; and by the way may make a few remarks.

Def-

Definition of Convulſive Motion.

This quality is peculiar to muſcular organs; becauſe, bodies whoſe ſtructures, &c. are altogether different, are incapable of the action.

A muſcle is ſaid to be convulſed when its fibres alternately contract and relax, or elongate, without the conſent of the will. Or in other words, a convulſion is an involuntary contraction and elongation of the fibres of a muſcle.

Proximate Cauſe.

The proximate cauſe of a convulſive motion in a muſcle, is an increaſed action of the energy of the power of motion of that muſcle.

Among the remote or occaſional cauſes of this diſeaſe, or morbid affection of a muſcle, &c. may be enumerated all irritating and ſtimulating quali-

qualities applied to the nerve of the muſcle, ſo affected, or to its ſenſitive parts exciting, at the ſame time, the action of the power of irritability.

Dr. HALLER, in ſpeaking of the power of motion with which the nerves furniſh the muſcles, ſays, in his experiment upon a frog, N° 194, Vol. I. p. 231.

J'ai irrité un nerf de la jambe de derriere, le muſcle, dans lequel il ſe rend, entra en contraction, et toute la jambe fut agitée par des convulſions. Je coupai tout le plexus nerveux, qui va à la jambe, les muſcles perdirent tout de ſuite cette force, qui leur vient de la volonté. J' epourantai l'animal, il voulut s'enfuir, mais la jambe refuſa de lui prêter ſon ſecours. J'irrité la moëlle de l'èpine, il y eut des convulſions par tout le corps à l'exception de la jambe, dont j'avois coupé les nerfs.

Again, in diſcourſing upon the ſubject of irritability, he ſays,

Toute

Toute la force des muſcles ne depend pas des nerfs, puiſqu' après quon les a liés ou coupés, les fibres muſculaires ſont encore capable d'irritabilité & de contraction. See his Diſſert. upon the ſubject, tom. I. p. 52.

But to return, muſcles may alſo become convulſed in conſequence of their nerves being affected by ſympathy, from their connexions with the nerves of ſuffering, or diſeaſed parts.

Of Spaſm.

A ſpaſm is a peculiar affection of a muſcle; and is a continued contraction of its fibres. This contraction is alſo involuntary.

Proximate Cauſe.

The proximate cauſe of ſpaſm, as well as of convulſion, is an increaſed action of the power of motion of the muſcle affected; with this difference, that here the impulſe reſulting from the increaſed action of the energy of the moving er, is continued.

Cure

Cure of Spaſm and Convulſion.

On this head, we need not be puzzled, becauſe we underſtand the nature of the proximate cauſe, and are acquainted with thoſe medicines, or ſubſtances, whoſe qualities can diminiſh the power of muſcular motion; ſuch as opium, chiefly; muſk; caſtor; the fætid gums; champor; &c. &c.

Thoſe medicines, when the convulſions, and ſpaſms are general, may be given internally; and, in an affection of a particular muſcle, may be applied externally in any proper form. But, to diminiſh the action of the power of muſcular motion, opium is the beſt application.

As we are only acquainted with particular properties of the nervous power, and know but very little of its real nature; ſo, our theories reſpecting the manner of action of thoſe medicines whoſe qualities debilitate it, muſt be extremely inconcluſive; therefore, in the ſubject I will not attempt to theorize.

In

In diſcourſing on this ſubject it may be remarked, I have fixed my attention on particulars; ſuch as, the local, or topical, affections, of the muſcular ſyſtem.

When the diſeaſe is general, the proximate cauſe only differs with regard to degree; and, by no means in reſpect to its nature: for the ſame cauſe which produces a convulſive motion in one muſcle, will produce it (cæteris paribus) in another.

When convulſions are general, the cauſe may be looked upon as reſiding in the brain, or ſpinal marrow; and, in general, it ariſes from an affection of their ſubſtance, whether this affection proceeds from ſome natural defect; external violence; internal inflammation, &c.

Before I leave the ſubject, it may be neceſſary to remark, that a muſcle which has been convulſed for any length of time; or that has ſuffered on account of ſpaſmodic affection, generally gives a ſenſation of pain and uneaſineſs; and feels as do thoſe muſcles which have been often and violently contracted in continued excerciſe. This, in a ſhort time, goes off: for the over-

ſtretch-

ſtretched fibres, of the affected muſcles, recover their tone, elaſticity, and vigour, and aſſume their natural ſtates.

If by the frequent recurrence of convulſions the body becomes too much debilitated, in conſequence of a debilitated nervous power, and a loſs of tone and vigour in the muſcular organs, recourſe muſt be had to proper ſtrengthening medicines.

By a long continuance of this diſeaſe, when it is general, the faculties of the mind become greatly impaired, and the mind of the poor ſufferer often degenerates into a ſtate of perfect idiotiſm. To prevent this, it behoves the medical-man to beſtow particular care, and attention.

For what valueth mortal life, when deprived of that divine poſſeſſion, ſound judgment? Can the moſt pleaſing and agreeable object, in ſuch doleful circumſtances, afford delight? No—than non-exiſtence, worſe.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIV.

Of Palſy.

WITH regard to the increaſed action of the energy of the nervous power, we have taken notice of its effects,

1. On the ſanguiferous ſyſtem in general and particular.

2. Upon the muſcles.

Now reſpecting the contrary ſtate, we have obſerved the phenomena reſulting from the arterial ſyſtem, in conſequence of a diminiſhed exertion of its power of motion; and, I now proceed to conſider the effects ariſing from a diminiſhed exertion, or total want of the impulſe of the nervous power in the nerves, leading to the organs of the ſenſes, &c.

If the ſtate of any part of a nerve between its origin in the brain, and its inſertion in the organ

of

of any particular ſenſe, is ſo changed, from whatſoever cauſe, that it no longer allows a paſſage for the preceptions, to the common ſeat of the ſenſes; or to the *ſenſorium commune* ariſing from the impulſes, or impreſſions of internal things; I ſay, the part, or organ, the nerve thus changed, leads to, will be void of all manner of ſenſation, and motion. Or, in other words, if there be a total ceſſation of communication between the brain and any organ of ſenſe, the ſaid organ will be as dead, to the perſon it belongs.

When this happens to all the animal organs, mortal exiſtence terminates. Can the human body poſſeſs life, when the circulation of the blood is no more?

Definition of Palſy.

A palſy is that diſeaſe wherein there is a want of ſenſation and voluntary motion in the parts of that portion of the body ſo affected. For inſtance, if the moveable and ſenſitive parts of the

the arm; or of any other member of an individual are void of motion and ſenſation, the member thus affected is in a paralytic ſtate; or in a ſtate of palſy.

Proximate Cauſe.

The proximate cauſe of palſy is a want of communication of the nervous power, (by means of the nerves) between the brain or *ſenſorium commune*, and the diſeaſed parts; or a want of exertion of the nervous power in thoſe nerves which lead to the affected parts.

Occaſional Cauſes.

Theſe are various. But, to make a long ſtory ſhort, whatever, by its particular action upon a nerve, produces a want of communication of the nervous power, between the brain and any part, may be acknowledged an occaſional cauſe of this diſeaſe:

1, Com-

1. Compreſſion by means of a ligature; tumors of the adjoining parts, &c. *This*, to aim at the doctrine of the *learned*, obſtructs the circulation of the animal ſpirits thro' the nerve of the diſeaſed part to the brain.

2. A particular change of the medulary ſtate of a nerve, whereby it becomes unfit for ſervice.

The ſtate of matter, in general, in whatever varied modification it appears, may be ſo changed, or *altered*, (words ſignifying the ſame thing, but, perhaps the *one*, more generally underſtood, than the *other*,) as to become altogether unfit for the purpoſe it was firſt aſſigned, as a part of the grand whole.

3. The diviſion of a nerve, by means of any ſharp inſtrument, &c. will produce palſy in the part to which it leads.

Sym-

Symptoms.

After what I have advanced, it becomes unneceſſary to enumerate all the phenomena attending this diſeaſe. But, that I may not be thought too laconick, I will juſt obſerve that the diſeaſed member (for inſtance) diminiſhes in ſize; or becomes emaciated. A mortification alſo of the affected, or ſuffering parts, frequently takes place; and theſe changes reſult from a diminiſhed tone, &c. of the fibres of the organic parts—want of due circulation of the blood in the parts of the diſeaſed member—extreme branches, and capillaries loſing their power of motion, &c.

CURE.

If the diſeaſe proceeds from a total diviſion of the nerves belonging to the affected parts, it cannot be cured. If on the contrary, it ariſes from

from compreſſion, &c. as occaſional cauſes, the cure may be attempted. Again, I will juſt hint, that, if the diſeaſe is general, and the reſult of ſome affection of the brain, the cure becomes more doubtful, and difficult.

In attempting the removal of this diſeaſe, our attention, and conſideration, muſt be particularly directed to the occaſional cauſes; and we muſt alſo conſider whether they act upon the brain, the ſpinal marrow, or upon particular nerves, &c.

The indication of cure here, as well as in all other diſeaſes, muſt be to remove the proximate cauſe. This is to be done by deſtroying all the occaſional cauſes; ſuch as compreſſion from tumors, ligatures, &c.

But, if the diſeaſe really proceeds from a want of exertion of the nervous power to the diſeaſed parts by means of the nerves, we muſt have recourſe to all thoſe powers which rouze and ſtimulate the principle of animal motion into active energy. Theſe muſt be adminiſtred both internally and externally.

1. Inter-

1. Internals. All the medicines to be here uſed muſt poſſeſs acrid, pungent, and ſtimulating, qualities; ſuch as the volatile ſalts; camphor; the fœtid gums; acrid roots, &c. Emetics alſo may be given: for by their action, they rouze the animal powers. All aromatics; and, in ſhort, all thoſe medicines, which, by their actions, are known to increaſe the energy of the nervous power; whether by ſternutation, &c.

2. Externals. Theſe muſt alſo be endowed with very active and ſtimulating, or pungent powers, in order they may, the more readily, excite the diſeaſed parts to motion and ſenſation: and, whether they produce this happy end, in conſequence of ſympathy taking place from their action, is immaterial.

They muſt conſiſt in bliſters, ſtimulating oils, all pungent, and volatile, applications, &c. and, if they produce the wiſhed intent, it matters not whether they are applied in the forms of ointments; balſams; linements, &c.

Before

Before I conclude, I will conſider another remedy which is now found to be often attended with ſucceſs, in the cure of this diſeaſe, viz. electricity.

Mr. L' Abbe Felice Fontana, defines the matter of electricity in the following manner.

La matiere electrique eſt une eſpece de vapeur, qui ſort d'un corps, où elle eſt en abondance pour entrer dans un autre, où il y en a moins, et elle donne des marques de ce paſſage, dont la force eſt dans la raiſon de la difference de la quantité de ce fluide dans ces deux corps. See Haller on irritability, Page 207, Vol. III.

So far our philoſopher may be in the right: but, being one of Haller's pillars in favour of his theory regarding ſome of the objects of phyſiology, he endeavoured to prove, in the above phyſiological diſſertation, that the electric matter has nothing to do with animal ſenſation, or muſcular motion: and, he proceeds thus;

Cela poſé, la matiere électrique doit être dans les nerfs et dans les muſcles dans une proportion inégale, puisqu' aucun mouvement n'en reſulte-

roit, ſi la quantité étoit égale : elle paroit pourtant l' être, puisque les nerfs et les muſcles ſont électriſabile par communication. On ſait que le frottement des corps de cette claſſe n' ebranle pas l'equilibre de la matiere électrique, ne cauſe aucun torrent, et par conſequent aucun mouvement. Suppoſé même que le fluide électrique détérminé par l'eſprit animal, coule le long du nerf, comment ſe peut-il qu'un muſcle ſeul ſe meuve au gré de la volonté, & qu'un grand nombre de muſcles ne ſe contractent pas en même tems? comment empeche-t-on que la vapeur electrique ne s'epande dans tous les muſcles, qu' aborde ce nerf, plus voiſins même du cerveau : puiſque la vapeur electrique a pour promiere loi de ſe repandre de tous cotés pour-retablir l'equilibre en un moment, dans tous les corps, contigus à celui, qui eſt ſurchargé de cette vapeur.

He ſays, the electric matter ought to be in the nerves and muſcles in an unequal proportion, ſince no motion would take place if the quantity was equal. He goes on, and ſays—It appears, however, to be ſo, ſince the nerves and muſcles are electrifiable by communication. Again, even ſuppoſing, ſays he, the electric fluid, determined by the ſoul, runs along the nerve, how can it be that only one muſcle moves at the

con-

conſent of the will, and that a greater number do not contract in the ſame time? How can we hinder the electrical vapour from expanding itſelf throughout the muſcles in contact with the nerves? &c.

This method of arguing may very eaſily be overturned: but, as my preſent plan will not agree with prolixity, I will not attempt it, by entering into any long diſcuſſion upon the ſubject: However, our phyſiologiſt might have ſaid, with the ſame propriety, "all the hidden myſte-"ries in creation, whoſe natures are beyond the "limitation of the powers of my *underſtanding*, "I will not believe in:" and with regard to the earth's attraction, &c. he might have advanced an analogous doctrine.

Who will ſacreligiouſly dare to dictate to the almighty Author of creation? What raſh mortal will impiouſly advance criticiſm upon his works? Let us modeſtly bound with reaſon our vain reſearches into the concealed and obſcure works of nature. But on the other hand, with views to gain uſeful knowledge, let us, with keen purſuit, exert the powers of our minds upon ſuch objects as come within the ſphere of our cognizance.

The electric matter is undoubtedly a very powerful agent in nature, and, in different ſubjects, operates in very different, and oppoſite, manners. The ſame power variouſly modified is capable of producing various operations. The matter of electricity in one body, may be the cauſe of the cohæſion of its parts; in another the cauſe of attraction, &c.

The ſouls of men are originally the ſame in their natures; but, as I have before remarked, when joined with animal bodies, have different tendencies with regard to the powers of genius, &c. One man is diſpoſed for muſic, and at the ſame time, has no *taſte* for painting. Another has a *taſte* for painting, while he has no manner of genius for muſic, &c.

Whether the agent which operates in the nerves of the different ſenſes, &c. be the electric matter in a particular ſtate of modification; and whether muſcular motion depends upon the ſame principle, is, to me, a matter of no great conſequence. With infinite power, knowledge, &c. impoſſibilities are incompatible: But from the knowledge I have acquired of the ſubject, I think it more probable that the nervous fluid

muſt

muſt bear a greater analogy to the electrical matter than to earthy ſubſtance; or to rectified ſpirits of wine; &c.

It is certain, that the application of this fluid to the nervous ſyſtem, in particular ſtates of diſeaſe, is attended with ſucceſs; and, in no caſe does its application promiſe to be of more uſe than in caſes of palſy—We have many inſtances of its good effects in this diſeaſe.

In ſhort. in all caſes of debility, from a diminiſhed exertion of the nervous power: and, in caſes of a languid circulation of the blood in conſequence of a want of tone, &c. in the veſſels of any part tending to mortification, the application of the electric fluid muſt become ſerviceable: But its uſe ſhould be perſevered in.

I have purpoſely omitted many diſeaſes; but he who acquires a juſt knowledge from the peruſal of this little work, will be enabled to know to what head they properly belong; and if he can do that, he will not be at a loſs, with regard to their theories, and cures.

Having thus finiſhed the firſt ſpeculative produce, for public peruſal, of my medical knowledge,

ledge, not ſo much the reſult of methodical and ſcholaſtic education, as of natural inferences drawn from medical particulars, by the alone common dictates of uncontaminated reaſon, I ſubmit it, with due reſpect, to the judgment of ſuperiors—and hope, candid readers will not be too ſevere on ſuch faults, &c. as it may be thought to contain.

FINIS.

BOOKS

Printed for and ſold by

JOHN DONALDSON, *Corner of* ARUNDEL STREET, *in the Strand, London.*

1. Sir Robert Douglas's Peerage of Scotland, containing an hiſtorical and genealogical account of the nobility of that kingdom, from its origin to the preſent generation, with the arms. Folio.

2. Encyclopædia Britannica; or, A Dictionary of arts and ſciences, compiled upon a new plan, and illuſtrated with 160 copper-plates, by a ſociety of gentlemen in Scotland, 3 vols. 4to.

3. Forduni Scotichronicon, cum ſupplementis et continuatione Walteri Boweri. Præfixa eſt, Ad hiſtoriam Scotorum introductio brevis, cura Walteri Goodall. 2 vols. Folio.

4. Le avventure di Telemaco, riveduta e corretta da Pietro Nicoloſi. 12mo.

5. Doddridge's family-expoſitor, 6 vols. 8vo.

6. Burkitt on the New Teſtament. Folio.

7. Blacklock's Conſolations againſt death.

8. Juſtice's

8. Juſtice's Britiſh gardener's director. 8vo.
9. Pope's works, 6 vols.
10. Swift's works, 13 vols.
11. Rouſſeau's works, 10 vols.
12. Plutarch's lives, 6 vols.
13. Hervey's works, 6 vols.
14. The World, 4 vols.
15. Shakeſpear, 8 vols.
16. Young's works, 6 vols.
17. Thomſon's works, 4 vols.
18. Voltaire's hiſtory of Peter the great.
19. The Duke of Sully's memoirs.
20. Baron Monteſquieu's Spirit of Laws, 2 vols.
21. Biſhop Burnet's hiſtory of his own times, 6 vols. 12mo.
22. Feilding's works, 12 vols.
23. The Adventures of Telemachus, 2 vol.
24. Pharmacopæia Edinburgenſis.
25. Celſus de medicina.

N. B. Liſts of JOHN DONALDSON'S *Books, with the prices, are given to ſuch as pleaſe to call or ſend for them, to the Corner of Arundel Street in the Strand, as he has no Concern in any other Shop.*